from Macherla to Raichur *via* Nagarkurnool and from Vikarabad to Krishna in Raichur district *via* Pargin. These two lines pass through the very backward districts of Mahaboob Nagar, Ranga Reddy and parts of Guntur of Andhra Pradesh. Though the survey was conducted long back, no action had been taken yet by the Ministry of Railways. If these two lines are laid, there will be shortening of the distance between Guntur district and Meheboob Nagar District and time will be saved for the commuters from Guntur to Raichur and from Ranga Reddy district to Raichur. The transport facilities for the people will also improve. It will pave the way for industrialisation in Maheboob Nagar district in my constituency of Nagarkurnool particularly.

I request the Government (Railway Ministry) to take up these lines immediately.

15.43 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Drought Situation in Orissa - Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we turn to Discussion under Rule 193. The total time allotted is two hours. Shri Bhakta Charan Das who initiated the debate has alredy taken 28 minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Yesterday the hon. Chair said that there would be no time limit for this discussion. Most of the Orissa MPs were present. Every State is affected by unprecedented drought.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us continue the discussion. We shall consider it subsequently. Shri Bhakta Charan Das will please continue. Please bear in mind that you have already exhausted 28 minutes and you should finish within three or four minutes and conclude your speech so that the other hon. Member also can take part.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Orissa drought situation is no less serious than the Andhra Pradesh cyclone situation.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Will the item relating to DDA Bill be taken up today? The hon. Minister is also sitting now. We have two hours up to six o'clock. If there is a chance, we should be told about it. What is your decision?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member should know that we are discussing the drought situation in Orissa.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the DDA bill be taken up today or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot predict on that now. You can also very well share the view with me that I cannot predict nor can you also predict.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Yesterday I was suggesting some permanent measures to fight out the chronic situation of Kalahandi and Nuapara districts. I referred to some of the major and medium irrigation projects. There are many streams and rivers flowing over Kalahandi and Nuapara districts, but there has not been any irrigation project. There is one Udanti river which has flown along Sirapalli bloc and Khadiyal Bloc.

This Sinapalli block famine in 1965 was very much famous. But there has not been any permanent irrigation project for this block especially. So, I would suggest to the Government to include the Udanti river project to irrigate this dry-spell area.

The other one is about the Madanpur-Rampur block. There has been a proposal for setting up the Rahul-Utei complex which would be a major project. But no step has been taken so far to include this project either by the State Government or by the Government of India. So, I would request the Government that the Rahul-Utei major complex irrigation project should be taken up.

There are two other medium irrigation project potentialities in the district. One is the Sandul medium irrigation project and the other is the Ret medium irrigation project. I wanted to suggest some permanent measures. Unless permanent measures are taken, this district cannot recover from the drought situation.

Besides the other irrigation projects, the State Government-owned main roads are in extremely worst conditions, what to talk about the village and panchayat roads. There are block headquarters. But they do not have permanent communication facilities with the district headquarter. Sinapalli block people cannot go to the district headquarters of Nowpara because there are three bridges to be constructed and no step has been taken to construct the bridges, what to talk about the village and the panchayat. There are thirty villages each in many panchayats but they do not have any communication facilities with their panchayat headquarters. They do not have communication facilities with the district headquarters. So, I would request the Government of India to provide sufficient financial assistance to build the road system of Kalahandi district starting from the village to the district headquarters so that thousands of labaourers can work in labour-intensive work and they can fight out this drought situation.

I would like to say about another sad part of it. The then Planning Commission which was headed by Dr. Mohan Dharia passed the 54 kilometre Lanjigarh road to Junagarh railway line. At that time I was the Minister of State for Railways. It was included in the interim Budget of the Railways. Money was placed for that. But the progress of the work is so low that in the last five years only an amount of rupees four crore has been spent but the rest of the amount is not given. Even in this Budget also for this year only rupees one crore has been placed for this railway line. So, how to develop

this ara? Unless industry comes up, unless the railway line is built up, how can this area develop? Why not people migrate from these places? People in lots have migrated. I do not know when the Government would take notice of this aspect. I requested the Railway Minister several times during the discussion on the Railway Budget. I personally met the Prime Minister and requested him to place more funds. In spite of that, money is not being placed for this railway line properly. Now, the staff are withdrawn from the construction site and the work is standstill.

So, I would urge upon the Railway Minister and I would also request the Government of India to give at least rupees 25 crore for this so that the earthwork can be taken up and many people can be engaged as labourers in this railway project. The Government of India and the Orissa Government should take keen interest to set up at a large alumina plant because we have got a heavy deposit of bauxite in Niyamgiri and Sijimalli of Kalahandi district. Several discussions have been held at the State and the Central level. But there has not been any alumina plant. If there is an alumina plant, then a minimum of 40,000 people can sustain out of the different kinds of earnings from that. Sir, I am suggesting some permanent measures. This is a chronic problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all right. Please conclude.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : You cannot just say "that is all right." I may be pardoned. This is a discussion in which we have got the chance to speak. We have to ventilate the issue. We want to suggest some permanent measures. It is time for the Government to act.

Sir, you would be surprised to know that whatever money was given by the Government of India at the district level and at the State level, the State Government is unable to spend. In Nuapara, Kalahandi and Bolangir districts, 40 per cent posts are lying vacant. The administrative infrastructure available in the districts is so small and so inadequate that they are unable to spend whatever money is given so far. How they are going to spend the money given by the Government of India this time, I do not know. That is why they make a lot of false deals. Forty to fifty per cent amount which is supposed to be spent only for development of these areas, is amassed by the bureaucrats and contractors.

So, I would request the Government of India to place the funds directly at the disposal of the KBX districts and an officer of Government of India should monitor the expenditure side. Otherwise, there would be some pilferage, we cannot check up corruption, and we cannot develop these districts in spite of our getting funds repeatedly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken more than 20 minutes.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, I am going to mention another point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got no objection but the only thing is, other Members are also there to speak on this subject.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, I will finish it within five to ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not five to ten minutes. Please finish it before that.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : In our area, there is a bank called 'Anchalik Grameen Bank' for financing the IRDP beneficiaries who are supposed to be the most poorer class people. The 'Anchalik Grameen Bank' should finance the IRDP beneficiaries but they are not financing the IRDP beneficaries at all. They are not fulfilling their target. They are given 10 to 20 applications to finance but they are financing only to one or two applicants.

Therefore, I would suggest that the Government should direct the Anchalik Grameen Bank to finance the IRDP beneficiaries so that they would not die out of starvation.

There is the Service Cooperative Society. They are used to finance the loan for Kharif crop to the farmers of Kalahandi and Naupara area. The Service Cooperative Society should finance, at least, Rs. 10 lakh a year but they have lost their capacity. This year, they have financed Rs. 50,000. But the farmers are affected to a great extent.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government and request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to waive off this small amount, this time, which the farmers of Kalahandi had taken. The loan amount is very small and that is why I think, the Government can take a decision to w waive off the loans of farmers.

As regards crop insurance, there has not been any crop insurance. In what way, the Government is going to help the middle-class farmers and farmes who have been continuously affected by drought? So, I would request the Government of India to make an assessment as to what amount the farmers have invested in their fields. At least, the invested amount should be given to the farmers. The Government of India is giving a lot of compensation if there is a death in calamity. On death calamity, the Government is paying Rs. 50,000 but the crop loss is several times more. But no steps are being taken to compensate the farmers.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to at least help the farmers. He can make an assessment of the invested amount of the farmers and that amount should be borne by the Government of India so that the farmers can go for the next Kharif crop.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Yes, Sir.

The situation is so worse and pitiable that this House should consider very seriously, further there

should not be any kind of drought or misery. People are dying out of starvation in hundreds and hundreds. The newspapers are reporting them; there is no need to repeat the figures in this House.

I would request the Government of India with folded hands as also all the hon. Members of this House to find a permanent solution to overcome this drought situation and poverty situation, at least in the districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput and Nuapara in Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, we are present in this House to discuss the severe drought situation of Orissa. Our hon'ble colleague Shri Bhakta Charan Das had raised this issue yesterday and some other Members also will speak on this subject. Since, this issue is being discussed in this House, I would like to submit in this regard that as I know there are various districts affected by famine. I do not think that this is the problem of Orissa alone. Today, same situation has arisen in several parts of Madhya Pradesh. Crops have been destroyed in various areas of Palamu and Gadhwa regions of Bihar. The paddy crops have been worst affected. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise some points from technical point of view as all the hon'ble Members are expressing their views only about relief. Nobody is raising the point in regard to overcome this problem. Shri Bhakta Charan Das has presented some facts on this subject and raised some points with regard to famine which hit his constituency. So far as the development is concerned, he has said that foodgrains may be provided in the villages there, deep boring system may be started where water level has gone down, the working of the administrative setup may be strengthened, more resoures may be provided and more money may be released by the Government. Though we claim to have entered in the most modern era, in spite of that we are still discussing the issue of famine here and this type of situation is taking place continuously in several States. Similar situation was emerged in Orissa in 1993. In 1996, the then Prime Minister had visited that area and had announced a package of Rs. 4 5 thousand crore for these three districts. But I would like to draw your attention towards the question as to why the situation of famine arises in these States. Today we are concerned about Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. But if the rising trend of situation is continued, the entire country can come in the grip of this famine situation. We should find out the basic factors due to which the famine situation is arising but it is not being done. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here and while replying the discussion he will give a statement on the arrangements made by the Government in this regard. I am not able to understand as to why we are not discussing the reasons due to which water level is going down? Today, the hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests should also be present in the House because this issue is also related to the environment. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you must be knowing the cycle of water. 97 per cent of water is salty on this earth which we cannot use. Out of the remaining three percent water, 2 per cent is available in the form of glacier and snow cap. We are using only one percent water. Only one per cent water is being used in the entire country available from the rivers, streams, ponds and canals. Now, the issue is about the management of one per cent water. Therefore, I am raising this issue so that the management of this one per cent of water may be done at national and international level in such a way that the situation of famine does not occur. On one hand we talk of water management and on the other hand, how the re-charge of ground water takes place on the earth through rains and other sources.

15.59 hrs.

(Prof. Rita Verma *in the Chair*)

Water level is going down continuously in the area about which Shri Bhakta Charan Das is talking. There is a cycle of water. In this cycle, when sunrays fall on the sea, water gets evaporated and it goes up in the sky. When it is condensed and falls on the earth in the form of rains, then it recharges the ground water. In this cycle, forests also play an important role. A comprehensive study may be carried out of these districts about which discussion is going on. Only 6 to 7 percent forests have been left in these districts. When a famine occurs and people die and paddy crops are destroyed then they cut trees as a result thereof the forest land is decreasing.

16.00 hrs.

Thus, it causes a vicious circle. Today there are no forests in those areas which we are talking about and the neighbouring States also facing the same situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if a geographical and scientific study is carried out today, you will find that the ground water level is going down there. Therefore, such a study will have to be carried out all over the country because the way trees are being cut and the schemes regarding social forestry are not being implemented and the earth is being imbalanced, its natural resources are being exploited has resulted the situation we are facing today. So if we do not stop this exploitation, we will have to face same situation in future also.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying this because the Hon'ble Minister has sanctioned Rs. 50 crore this year and he will sanction the same amount next year also but how long the Government will provide such funds and resources? Therefore, a study of this aspect will have to be carried out all over the country from geographical and scientific point of view. Then only we will be able to find out a solution of this problem. I know that water level is going down at various places of Bihar even

when this is not a summer. Though, rainy season has just over but the famine situation has come up before us in this House when it is the month of November. You can just imagine as to what will be the position in the months of May and June? We will have to think about that

Mr. Chairman, I think that this is a technical subject. Shri Bhakta Charan Das has given many details and facts about his constituency and he has raised several points. All the related Departments will have to establish a co-ordination about these facts. The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Irrigation should establish co-ordination among them because the country has limited resources. We have changed the names of these Departments several times. Earlier its name was Irrigation Department but later its name had been changed as Ministry of Water Resources. This was done due to limited resources. They have a limit. Therefore, we had to change the name of these departments and this Department was renamed as Department of Water Resources.

Madam Chairman, I would like to say that if we want to save ourselves from these natural calamities, we will have to stop the exploitation of the environment and a feeling should be developed in the society that it should stop the felling of trees and unnatural exploitation of environment. I reiterate that the works being done at administrative level in these areas at present, are not being done in their letter and spirit

Madam, I know that Bhakta Charan Das ji and Kalahandi are synonymous and if any discussion about Kalahandi is held, it means Bhakta Charan Das ji is being discussed and vice-versa. This situation prevails in 27 districts out of 30 districts of Orissa. The Parliamentary constituency of our another colleague Shri Patnaik also experiences the same situation. I would like to know from the Government the reason of this grim situation prevailing in the area and the status of K.B.K. Scheme of Rs. 45 crore announced by the then Prime Minister on the basis of which the experts went there and studied the situation and recommended that this much amount should be provided to these three districts? The conditions due to which work could not be done on the said scheme should be discussed

Madam attention is paid to this side only when any emergency arises. There are two types of deaths - first by accident and the second due to cancer. In the later case a man dies a slow death and suffers for a long time. The situation of drought can be compared with death due to cancer. Several diseases spread due to it in the entire areas and people fall prey to slow and painful deaths. In an accident, people die all of a sudden. The family mourns the death for some days but after a certain period, he is forgotten and then everything becomes as usual. But it is not so in the case of drought. The entire area becomes victim of the grim situation of drought and starvation.

One, sitting in Delhi cnnot imagine the grim situation of the starvation. The difficulties and sufferings of farmers and villagers due to starvation can be experienced only by visiting the area. I think that about 40 lakh people have migrated from Orissa to other parts of the country. A racket is active in the area for contracting labourers and all the contract labourers of the country have been supplied from these three districts of the State. It is a very serious matter and the Government should consider it seriously.

Madam, I have raised the issue of environment, time and again that this natural calamity will fall again in almost all the States during rainy season and then we will be compelled to discuss this issue. You can very well imagine the situation of drought during summer when we are talking about the situation of famine at present. When will the Government think about it and coordinate all these issues? We had discussed about linking all the big rivers of the country. We see in pictures in foreign countries as well as in other States that all the big rivers have been channelised and regulated. We unwittingly, spend crores of rupees on many other works but no work is done in a comprehensive way. I do not know as to what the Planning Commission and other departments do, but I have understood that the coordination in all the departments is necessary for linking all the issues of developments. These issues put the country in grim situation and the entire country suffers and no special facility is provided to the poor.

Madam, I would like to state that this situation is also arising in Bihar, specially South Bihar from where the hon. Madam Chairman hails. The level of water in that area is going down. There is no water in the ponds. The same situation is prevailing in Madhya Pradesh and I suppose that Raipur is also facing the same situation. I think that a coordination committee, comprising of the hon. Environment Minister, the hon. Minister of Irrigation and the hon. Minister of Agriculture should be appointed to make elaborate arrangements for drought-prone areas like Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and to stop the deforestation.

The social scientists, technical scientists or and other experts should consider this issue. I pray to God that the persons in Planning Commission who decide the fate of entire nation on the paper, should also take initiative in this regard so that they may understand the reality. We should be properly represented and there should be coordination among the experts related with the entire issue. This issue should be considered and the Government should provide more assistance to these States. The then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimharao has arrived. The scheme worth Rs. 45 crore announced by him should be implemented in these areas. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Thank you. It is with deep anguish and pain that I rise, once again, to speak on the drought situation in Orissa, with special emphasis on the undivided KBK Districts, Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput Districts.

Our hearts are down with the impoverished, unfortunate, hapless and stoic people of Orissa who are braving the vagaries of the monsoon with tears in their eyes and stark famine staring before their eyes, awaiting help and succor.

I thank the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister for their promptitude, their sympathetic help and their attitude and response, particularly for the amount of Rs. 50 crore sanctioned by the hon. Prime Minister from his Relief Fund. An amount of Rs. 30 crore has already been released for labour intensive works and an amount of Rs. 8 crore for the accelerated rural water supply scheme. This will go a long way in mitigating the difficulties. But in all this, I perceive a pattern emerging, the pattern unfolding before our eyes, which spans exactly three decades, from 1965 to 1996.

Commencing with Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri Morarji Desai, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Devel Gowda, all took the trouble and pain to visit the undivided KBK Districts, meet the people, people's representatives, non-officials and officials, discuss about advance, render generous loans and release the State's share from the Calamity Relief Fund to tide over the difficult period and await the Collectors' Reports which have to come through the red tape of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner and the Special Relief Commissioner and then will come through the ordinary channels to the Government of India.

This has become a standing operating procedure as we term in military parlance. Madam, what a paradox and enigma Orissa is! There is impoverishment amongst plenty even after eight Five Year Plans. Many crores of rupees are spent on Centrally-aided and sponsored projects. In fact, if one goes by statistics - I do not wish to repeat the definition given by Gladstone - whether it is the statistics of the State Government or the Central Government or the Planning Commission, Orissa has the highest number of people living below the poverty line in the country. Forty one per cent are tribals or Scheduled Castes and another 14 per cent are non-tribals or non-Scheduled Castes, that is, the people living below the poverty line and subsequent droughts, floods and cyclones over the last three decades have even impoverished them further, their productivity, their wage and their income. They are in a very very difficult situation at the moment. Experts have also gone into it. Expert bodies of the Planning Commission, non-Governmental organisations and Governmental bodies have indicated low agricultural productivity on which 75 per cent of the people of Orissa depend. They are either farmers or agricultural labourers with low wages and income.

My friend, Shri Bhakta Charan Das from Kalahandi was speaking. There was a time when Junagadh in Dharamgadh sub-division of Kalahandi was the grannery of Western Orissa which could match the production of paddy with that of Balasore and Bhadrak districts. But today, we see mass migration, starvation and of course, in this very House, we have discussed the sale of children.

Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture visited the worst affected areas, that is, the undivided Kalahandi and Bolangir in Koraput districts. I am sure as farmers and as people in charge of agriculture, they are only too aware about the reasons for drought and I am equally sure that they also know the implications of drought and the consequent occurrences which happened after drought and famine. It has been echoed in this House. I am sure that they also know the solutions to drought and in particular, this drought in Orissa where 24 per cent of rainfall was not only deficient but rainless days increased and the dry spell also increased. We have only 72 days of rainfall from June to September. This time, we had only 52 days and dry spell was quite frequent and therefore, evaporation was also very high.

Hon. Agriculture Minister's statement was read out by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs yesterday which is quite candid about the reason for the drought and the efforts of the State Government within the limited constraints of resources of a State like Orissa where the tax base is very very small. Only 45 per cent of the people can be taxed.

I would like to draw your attention that through a submission under Rule 377 on 26th November, 1996 the notice of which I had given on the 18th, I had drawn the attention of the hon. House to the critical position of undivided Dhenkanal district, which is now Dhenkanal in angul district in particular and Orissa in general and the need to take up works in the canal system of Rangali multipurpose irrigation project which was started in 1973. Shrimati Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone. It was a Rs. 273 crore project which has now gone to an astronomical figure of Rs. 1400 crore. It is the same as the Indiravati project when Shri Morarji Desai laid the foundation stone in 1978 for Rs. 200 and odd crore and now it has also gone upto Rs. 1400 crore.

Then, I had also raised the question of regional water supply to the urban conglomerates, that is Dhenkanal, Gultalcher, Bhuvan and Kamakhyanagar. When I submitted this notice on the 18th November, 1996, the Government of Orissa had felt that 12 out of 30 districts were severely drough - affected. But they could not declare these as drought-affected because of the red tape and the famine code and the entire gamut of the official line where it has to come through the Collector. Then, it has to come to the Divisional

Commissioner, Revenue. It has to come to the Special Relief Commissioner. Then, the Chief Secretary will send it here. Then, there will be crop cuttings in autumn. Then, there will be crop cuttings in December. Then, only in January, we - hon. Members - will wake up that there is a drought.

Then, on the same day - 26th November - the hon. Minister of Agriculture, in an answer to Starred Question No. 63 of Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi, mentioned 20 districts out of 30 and 113,664 villages based on crop cutting assessments. I beg to differ here. These were high estimations. The Central team had gone on the 17th to 20th November. That was the first time that crop cutting was done.

Then, on the 27th afternoon, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reading the statement of the hon. Minister of agriculture mentioned 26 districts and 27,081 villages out of a total 50,972. Such is the rapidity with which the situation is deteriorating. Between 18th and 27th, about 14,000 villages and 14 more districts have been affected.

Orissa is not so fortunate as the other States do have snow-fed rivers or the advantages of two monsoons. With 1,55,840 sq. miles geographical area, broadly divided into five geomorphological climatic and erratic conditions and peculiarities - firstly, the coastal plains, secondly, the river valleys and flood-prone plains, rolling uplands, plateaus and mountains and a climate varying between moist sub-humid, dry sub-humid and a total of 64.52 lakh hectares cultivable area, comprising 29.42 lakh hectares that is, 45.6 per cent highland. That means, it depends entirely on rainfed and a single monsoon for 72 days. 18.00 lakh hectare - that is, 29.1 per cent medium land are partly rainfed and partially irrigated and 16.30 lakh hectare, that is 25.3 per cent low land, are again partly rainfed and partly irrigated. Of the total, about only 22 lakh hectares, that is 34 per cent, are covered by irrigation from various sources.

As per the maps and records with the Irrigation Department, the Water Resources Department and the Revenue Department, sometimes the tail-end of those command areas do not get water. But they still have to pay the water taxes.

I really do not know who will know the reality. But after all, statistics are statistics. And we have to go by them. That means, the remaining 42.52 lakh hectare, that is 66 per cent of the land, are rainfed.

I remember the Ancient Mariner who said : "Water, water everywhere; all the boats will sink. water, water everywhere not a drop to drink." It is available neither for the parched dry throats nor for the body and nor for the agricultural fields. Sixty-six per cent of the water resources of Orissa run down to the Bay of Bengal without being of any use to land or beast or crops. As the hon. Minister of Agriculture has very candidly said in his statement, 26 million tonnes of foodgrains are expected to have been lost, that is, worth nearly Rs. 1,000 crore. If this is not a national calamity, I do not know what a national calamity could be. Already one and a half lakh people, this is again an estimate, have migrated to different States in search of work, income and food leaving behind their old parents, leaving behind their children. They are at the moment totally deserted. They would become destitutes and I do not know what schemes we have to look after them. The needs of food, wages and income of about a crore of people would have to be catered till the next *kharif* season, that is, till June, 1997. That is what the statement of the Minister of Agriculture reveals. There are about 364 mandays for 12.33 lakhs of people which comes to about a crore of mandays. There are others which we have not taken into account. To say about the chances of survival and probability of malnutrition, hunger, dehydration leading to dysentery, diarrhoea and Gastroenteritis, without health cover, medicine, medical and para medical staff and their mobility would be a hazardous guess for a person like me. Even in normal times, two years back, without a drought we had a large number of deaths due to Gastroenteritis, Diarrhoea and Dysentery. The hon. Minister of Agriculture must have found out, during his visit to the KVK districts hospitals without doctors, para medical staff and medicines. The doctors are not going to the rural dispensaries or the Parimary Health Centres. This is a reality which we cannot sweep under the carpet.

Madam, I come from a relatively less favourable or a more favourable area than the KVK districts. Angul district has seven per cent irrigation - 56 per cent highland; 28 per cent medium land; and 16 per cent low land. The condition of the Dhenkenal district is slightly better. There is about 15 per cent irrigation - 52 per cent high land; 26.7 per cent medium land and 28 per cent low land. The high land is a total write-off. People even in the month of September send their bullocks, goats and sheeps to graze. They have started selling all their bullocks, goats and sheeps. Irregular and scanty monsoon has also resulted in the water table going down, the hon. Minister of Agriculture came across somebody who had no bath for ten days. When there is no drinking water where is the question of having a bath. That is the situation in Adavali, Chennipada, Kishorenagar, Angul, Dwarpad, Gondia, Kamakhyanagar, Suban, Kankrahat, Haidol Sadar, Odapada, Birmaharajpur and Ullundu which are all part of the KVK districts. The situation in Sambalpur is no different. In the Burger district, in the 12 blocks under Dr. Krupa Sindhu Bhoi's parliamentary constituency including his own village, there has been a loss of 90 per cent. That is in Adampur sub-Division.

Now, Madam, what do we do in Parliament and at the Centre? Do we wait for the State Government - who have initiated a very ambitious *Rabi* programme and

have initiated a very ambitious Agricultural Policy - to do something? But what do they do with their meagre resources? Is there any way we could extend help to them? Could we help them by giving funds from the Centre or help them to get some external funds or some funds from some institutions?

Madam, we are very fond of saying that this is a national calamity and steps to combat it must be taken on a war footing.

What is meant by war footing? If one has to go through it then there are certain principles of war. First is, the selection and maintenance of aim. What is our aim? Second is, concentration of fire power. Third is, economy of effort. Fourth is, flexibility. Fifth is organisation. Sixth is coordination and the seventh is Communication.

Now, what is the aim of the Parliament: the aim of the Government of India or the State Governments or the Planning Commission? Is it just to solve a few problems when they arise, as an emergency and then forget about them? If we take the first principle of war, then I am afraid we will have to have a sustained special plan for a State like Orissa. As is said by Mr. Rudy, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan also fall in this category where a special programme for chronically calamity prone States will have to be taken into consideration. Instead of digressing the entire focus has to be on the problem.

We had debated about drought, flood and cyclone on earlier occasions also. We think that it is unfair on the part of the Minister of Agriculture to shoulder the entire responsibility. This has to be the entire Government of India's concern because a large number of Ministries play a role in tackling such a serious situation. It is not only the Ministry of Agriculture because there are various other implications.

As far as agriculture is concerned, the first and foremost aim should be to have a permanent solution instead of giving doles and reliefs which are a diversion from development as it does not add to the creation of permanent or durable assets. At the same time, development also gets stifled and there is always a constraint of resources. In this regard I would like to suggest that the Government of Orissa has submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister - which has already been mentioned by my colleague, Mr. B.C. Das - in which various factors have been mentioned about agriculture, animal husbandry, soil conservation, re-financing, cooperation, banking, fisheries, food supply and consumers, health and family welfare, housing and urban development, Panchayati Raj - which deals with agricultural labour, small and marginal farmers, non-agricultural labour - and rural artisans.

About 82 per cent of Orissa lives in villages. In fact, in 1969 the first district to be taken under the DRDA - or SFDA, Small Farmer Development Agnecy at that time - was in Orissa. Three districts were taken in the first place. They had given an action plan in which they had asked for Rs. 577 crore. This is only for meeting the drought situation at the moment. As I said, till January we will not know the exact magnitude, severity and the seriousness of the drought because it is only an interim report based on a visual estimation and some random crop cutting. Winter cropping will be harvested only towards December-end. So, in January we will know the real severity of this drought.

For Agriculture and Soil Conservation they have asked for Rs. 18.79 crore; cooperation Rs. 15.95 crore; Fisheries and Animal Development Resources Department Rs. 2.97 crore; Health and Family Planning - Rs. 4.97 crore. Housing and Urban Development Department - Rs. 8.77 crore. Panchayati Raj Rs. 3.71 crore; Rural Development Department - Rs. 51.32 crore; Water Resources Department Rs. 86.73 crore; Energy Department - Rs. 10 crore and Emergency Feeding Programme Rs. 7.20 crore.

Then the second suggestion I would like to make is about the Memorandum on Accelerated Irrigation Development which the hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa along with the Finance Minister and the Minister of Water Resources presented to the hon. Prime Minister about a month and a half back, during the last session of Parliament. In that the Government of Orissa would like to bring in 59 lakh hectares of land under irrigation. That would increase the potential from 34 per cent to double, that is, about 68 per cent. Because of constraints of resources, in the Eighth Plan they are falling short of Rs. 1,017 crore. An amout of Rs. 4,000 crore from outside the Plan is required. I do not know how the Government of India is going to help in this matter.

There are some ongoing projects which have to be completed. They are - Upper Indravati, Upper Kolab, Rengali, Subarnarekha, Mahanadi, Chitrotpala, Island Irrigation Project, Kanpur, Hariharjore, Badanalla, Birupa, Genguti, Harabhangi, Upper Jonk, Baghua, Deo, Baghalati, Sapua, Badajore, Titlagarh, Dorjang Stage-II, Bagh, Rukura Project, Telengir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Singh Deo, you have already spoken for more than 25 minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Madam, our State is reeling under drought. If you do not want me to speak about it, I will sit down. I do not wish to defy the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What I mean to say is, the time allotted is only two hours and you have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: No, Madam. Yesterday the Chair said that there is no time limit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am quite sure, your colleagues will also like to participate.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I beg your pardon. There have been so many interruptions that Shri Bhakta Charan Das could not even finish his speech.

The projects which have been identified for implementation during 1996-2001 are - Upper Indravati, Upper Kolab, Rangali, Subarnarekha, Mahanadi Chitrotpala, Kanpur, Potteru. Medium projects identified are - Hariharjore, Badanalla, Harabhangi, Upper Jonk, Deo, Baghalati, Manjore, Birupa Genguti, Baghua Stage-II, Sapaua Badajaore, Titlagarh, Bagh, Rukura, Telengiri. New projects are - Lower Suktel, Lower Indira, Dhauragoth, Cheligada, Ret and Katra. What is required is another Rs. 400 crore which has to come from outside the Plan process. For this we shall all have to put our heads together.

Then, the Total Health Scheme Memorandum which the hon. Health Minister came and submitted to the hon. Prime Minister during the last session. That envisages augmentation of all rural hospitals so that people are able to get their health care.

The Accelerated Rural Water Supply scheme of Rs. 150 crore has been languishing with the Government of India. Four Central Government public sector undertakings are polluting the Brahmani river. Five years back, a decision was taken that a coordinated effort will be made by the Central Government in which 50 per cent of the expenditure will be borne by the State and 50 per cent will be borne by the Centre. The State has already put in its 50 per cent. But since there is no coordination, the issue of 50 per cent from the Central public sector undertakings has not yet been resolved. The Central Pollution Control Board has also come down heavily on them two years back.

Then, I come to the issue of drinking water supply. We are one of the the signatories, in 1980, to the 'Safe Drinking Water - 2000'. Yet, today there is water scarcity in Orissa. There are villages which are partially covered. I would not say that they do not have water, but because the water table has gone down, there is fluoride, iron, and arsenic poisoning in the water which affects eyes. Children, especially, are getting affected by this.

Then I come to the Regional Urban Water Supply and the help of Japanese Overseas Economic Fund. I congratulate Bihar and Kerala for having got the nod of the Japanese Government and the Central Government this year. I do hope Orissa will get its nod for at least 1997-98.

The Employment Assurance Scheme could be another way of mitigating the sufferings of the people. There are 64 blocks which are still not covered under the Employment Assurance Scheme. We have come and met the hon. Prime Minister. I do hope that 64 blocks of Orissa are given the 'go ahead' so that at least 100 days of assured income generation schemes would be given to the drought affected areas.

In the Railway Standing Committee, we were discussing that there should not be a competition between poverty alleviation schemes and the railways because both are for development. If these could be dovetailed the Employment Assurance Scheme, the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and the new railway lines, which have been assured by the Ministry of Railways, particularly in the tribal areas, like Baitari Banspani, Langiguda Ambaguda which will then connect to the only tin deposits of India, that is in Madhya Pradesh, it will be good. Otherwise, the only tin deposits are in Malaysia, at the moment.

India is a vast reservoir of tin but there are no infrastructure there. So also the Thalchar Angul, Kamakhya Nagar Sukinda Road where six large steel plants, cement plants and thermal plants are coming up. This is the highest internal rate of revenue, that is, 23.3 per cent and with an investmment of Rs. 281 crore in two areas, they are going to get Rs. 319 crore. I do not think that there is a more lucrative railway line in the whole of India. The hon. Minister of State for Railways is here. I am sure that he has been acting as a catalyst but since Shri Ram Vilas Paswan mentioned on the 30th July while replying to the Railway Budget, it has not gone to the Planning Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Singh, you are speaking on drought.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I would like to conclude by saying that the extension of the drought prone area programme should be done in the districts where it is partially covered. A Master Plan and a Special Plan, as is in the Relief Code, must be made because it is one of the requirements and in the last 30 years we have not made a Master Plan for drought-affected areas, which is in the Famine Code. If these are done, we will be able to mitigate some of the sufferings immediately. As the hon. Minister of Agriculture has rightly said that the cyclone brings immediate devastation, but it can be rehabilitated. But drought is a prolonged process for which we have to wait till the next harvest. How are the people going to sustain this? How they are going to earn income, feed their children and stay alive is the crux of the matter, at the moment.

There was some mention about starvation deaths. In fact, I would like to appeal here to the hon. House that although the Press should be alert to these things, it should not cause panic by converting diarrhoea deaths and gastro-enteritis deaths into starvation deaths because no Chief Minister or no State Government is ever going to admit starvation deaths. It only creates panic and we know that many times we have raised it here in Parliament, but no State Government will ever admit.

Thank you very much for giving me the chance.

[Translation]

SHRI ANCHAL DAS (Jajpur) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, the drought condition in Orissa is being discussed in the House and I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak on this issue.

The tribal people and Harijans are suffering due to sever drought in the state of Orissa. Orissa is an agriculture-dominated state where 70 percent people depend upon agriculture and 80 percent land is not irrigated. Most of the districts of the state are situated in hilly and forest regions where 60 percent people are Tribal, Harijans and poor. Even after fifty years of Independence, there is a lack of irrigational sources and every year people have to face drought. Even in the case of irrigation undertaken through canal, the lift bank is not working properly which has not been repaired till date. As for the wells, most of them exist in papers and records only whereas virtually no progress has been made in this regard. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has stated that Rs. 27 crore have been given four times during natural calamities, however this money has not reached the area so far. Yesterday he made a statement in the House that the Government has given crores of rupees however no Central assistance has been received in our District Headquarters. Tribal people and Harijans reside in our district who have no other source. Mostly Harijans, Tribals and dalits work in the fields of land-owners in Orissa.

Sir, there are not many industries in our state. Even when the floods, the droughts occur, the cyclones and storms hit the state, the Central grant is not received in time. Whenever such calamities occur, the state Government has to submit a report to the Central Government thereafter the Central Government send its own committee to the state which submits its report and then the budget is passed. This is the method adopted in a democracy because of which poor people do not get any Central assistance. There the whole district is in grip of starvation. More than one hundred people have died there but the State Government claims that these people have died of diarrohoea. It is a matter of grave concern and shame. The elections are being held in our state because of which all the development work would come to a standstill; the relief and rehabilitation work would not be taken up. These people need help, but they are not being given any help. The government is more concerned about holding the elections. The development work would come to a standstill due to elections. Then how would the Harijans, dalits, tribals, who constitute 60 percent of the total population of the state, would afford two Square meals. They migrate to other states. There is no other means of livelihood in our state. Our state is called a poor state but it is not really poor. Our state has got ample mineral resources, several mines and reserves of coal, mica and iron but all of it is taken away by the Central Government. As a result, in our state, the poor people remain in a state of poverty. They do not get any jobs and they do not get any food also. They spend their lives in state of poverty. Shri Biju Patnaik had set up 4-5 industries viz. Mesco, Kalingmesco, Bhushand Steel etc. However, they had to be closed down because of non-receipt of Central assistance. The Harijans, tribal and dalit people throughout the state have no other source of income. The funds allocated by the Central Government for various schemes are pocketed by middlemen because of which poor people remain poor and die of starvation.

Our former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao ji, Shri Devegowda ji, Shri Biju Patnaik, the Opposition Leader of our state, Shri Ashok Das, Shri Srikanta bhai and Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture have visited Orissa recently which is very commendable. Different schemes should be formulated by the Central Government to counter the drought conditions.

Last year when floods and storm hit the state ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please confine your speech to the matter of drought.

SHRI ANCHAL DAS : When storms and floods occur, the Central and the State Government should extend help to the poor. Four month ago my constituency Jajpur was hit by storm and flood which caused breaches in the dam. We made a request to the Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on drought. You should speak about the floods only when it is taken up for discussion in the House.

SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Please listen to me. I am discussing that aspect also. This is the problem being faced in Orissa 240 houses were washed away because of breaches in the dam. I wrote to the Prime Minister in this regard. He advised me to write to the Minister of Agriculture. I wrote to the Minister of Agriculture who asked me to write to the State Government. Congress is in power there. The Chief Minister went there by helicopter to survey the situation but did not submit any report. The houses of poor, Harijans and dalits were washed away but nobody offered any help. I have been elected to this House. We kept on speaking about this issue but nobody listened. The area was badly affected by the floods and the poor suffered the most. It is always the poor who suffer maximum loss in case of floods and storm whereas the rich and the influential do not suffer any loss. I request the Central Government to pay attention towards the funds sanctioned and its proper and timely disbursal amongst the poor.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : Madam, yesterday the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured in the House that the Prime Minister would be here today when this discussion takes place. Already the discussion on this subject has started at 3.30 p.m.

but the Prime Minister has not yet come here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Madam, the Chinese President has come. The Prime Minister has gone to receive him. He must be on his way...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Madam, this subject is more serious than other things... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is giving the assurance that he would come.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Yesterday the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured in the House that the Prime Minister would be here today when this discussion takes place but he has not yet come ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : He is just coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I call upon Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to speak.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Madam, an ethics - writer has said in Sanskrit :

"Apujyam yatra pujyante, Pujyanantu vyatikrama.
Taani tatravartante durbhiksham marnam bhayam"

The former Prime Minister must have understood it that those who are not worthy of being admired or respected are admired and respected and those who are respectable, and admirable are ignored.

'Treeni tatra vartante' i.e. the nation faces three types of situations. 'Durbhiksham marnam bhayam i.e. either a severe drought occurs or reports of large scale deaths are received or an atmosphere of fear prevails. Shri Satpal Maharaj has understood it. This is written down in Manusmriti. I believe that in the country whether it is Orissa or any other part of the country and right from the Independence till date it is said about our country that the budget of India is totally dependent upon monsoon. If the country experiences a good monsoon, everything falls into place. We have sufficient crops and well-being is ensured. However if Monsoon clouds do not arrive in time or are missed altogether or are delayed, the crops are demaged. The hopes of the farmers are dashed to the ground. The ponds dry up; the handpumps dry up; the problem of drinking water is faced; production of crops is affected. The labourers or landless people dependent upon agriculture face the most serious problem, that of subsistence. As our colleague from Orissa was mentioning that this is the most severe drought the state has faced in last 25 years and Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has admitted that 50 percent crops have been destroyed in 27,871 villages in 26 districts out of a total of 30 districts of Orissa and at places, 50 to 70 percent crops have beend destroyed. At certain places canals under the small and at others the canals under the medium irrigation projects have dried up because of which 26 lakh tonne paddy has been destroyed. As per the government's calculations, a loss of Rs. 951 crore has been suffered. As on date, people do not have anything to eat; there are no crops in the fields, so how would they earn their livlihood? Those people are earning their livelihood by cutting trees and selling them as a result of which forests also are being destroyed.

Madam Chairman, discussion takes place every year over the famine situation of Kalahandi. I have been the Member of Parliament for the last 6-7 years and I have been looking this. I would like to know from the Government as to why the Government do not identify such famine affected areas where such a dangerous situation emerges? If such areas have been identified then why Master Plan is not being prepared in order to ensure proper development of these areas? The Union Government provide crores of rupees to the State Government for soil conservation and water shed management. Had that amount been utilised properly, I think, such a situation would not have emerged. Due to not paying attention towards the water management the wells, ponds and hand pumps have dried, and ground water level is going down. As a result thereof, situation had worsened. I think that the Union Government is also responsible for that because it ignored the situation. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture had visited the area, and said that the media and the newspapers had not covered this problem? His statement was published in the newspapers but holding media and newspapers responsible for this will not serve the purpose. The Centre has to be kept informed by the State Government about the situation. The State Government is also responsible for that because it should have informed the Union Government about the loss of revenue and crops. Rains had not taken place there during the period from the month of June to September and now it is being said that this State is being neglected. A confusion is prevailing there. And now announcements have been made by the Union Government but these announcements are like a drop in the ocean. The Centre and the State are imposing allegations against each other.

It is very surprising that 16 MLAs of Congress Party there, have given a statement. A meeting of Congress Committee of Orissa was held in which they claimed that the Congress Party should withdraw its support at the Centre because Orissa has been badly affected by this fearful famine and Union Government has not provided any help. After that a commotion caused in the Congress at the Centre and then the Union Government made some announcements regarding financial assistance. It is an irony that despite the senior leader like hon'ble Biju Patnaik being an hon'ble

Member of the ruling party. so much sensitivelessness is there in the ruling party that famine took place in Orissa but even after four-five months, the people have not been provided assistance there. As a result thereof, thousands-lakhs of people have let their houses and gone to some other places.

Last year, plague had break out in Surat. Lakhs of labourers of Orissa who were employed there had to left Surat to save their lives. They were poor. They left all their belongings there. Now famine has occured there and they do not have work. Though, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna has been launched but funds were not provided. It is a famine code that unless an area is declared famine affected, no amount can be given from Calamity Relief Fund. Thus, no such work has been started there. As a result thereof, people did not get any wages then how they could arrange something to eat? Several mothers have sold their children. I have a report of newspapers but it is not the time to produce it here. Several examples have been reported that many people had sold their children. Madam, 180 deaths have taken place due to starvation there over which there is a controversy. The Chief Minister of the State has said that these deaths had taken place due to diarrhoea and not due to starvation. If these people have died due to diarrhoea then what was the cause of it? They might have eaten leaves of the trees or consumed such vegetables to satisfy their hunger due to which they died. He has said that they died due to diarrhoea and not due to starvation but in my view it is like 'Do Patan Ke Beech Main Sabut Bacha Na Koy" Both the Centre and the State Governments had not paid due attention in time due to which the people are suffering.

Madam, livestock is also being destroyed there and the condition of all the women, children and old persons is very pitiable. Rich people can face the situation because they might have had grains or paddy in their stock but how the poor people who earned their livelihood by working on daily wages will face the problem? Relief works should be started for them without any further delay and arrangements should be made to provide a permanent job to these children, woman and men according to their ability. The works for these people may be on lift irrigation, canals, JRY, construction of schools building, community halls and roads, planting of trees or digging of pits for forests. Madam, now we have six months' time from January to June. The situation is not so bad now. Some bad consequences have started to come up before us but it is a matter of concern that if the situation is so grim at present then what it would be after six months? The situation will continue to worsen. Therefore, as the hon'ble Home Minister had said that this was also a national calamity like cyclone which hit the Andhra Pradesh. If the cyclone of Andhra is a national calamity then this is also a national calamity. Though, flood occurred there and it caused devastating loss but after that there will be no problem and all will be alright and then there will be more production. But where drought has taken place and no crops are being produced at present and in the coming six months also, the situation will remain the same. What will the people, living there, eat unless rains take place? Therefore, I am of the view that the Union Government should declare it a national calamity and provide assistance liberally. Being the famine affected area and due to starvation, evacuation and exploitation, in the Naupara, Kalahandi and Bolangir districts incidents of change of religion are also increasing. Some people related to Ram Krishna Mission are engaged there in the relief works in the name of NGOs. The people related to Katholic Church are also involved

17.00 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

But those people who are unable to nourish their children are being compelled by some people to change their religion. It has been published in the newspapers that these people are being forced to change their religion. I think that the Government should also pay attention towards it in order to avert such situation. I would also like to say one thing more that almost 40 percent of the total domestic production of Orissa is from Agriculture alone there and agriculture provides job to about 64 percent people. And 80 percent Kharif crop has been destroyed. Only 33 percent land is irrigated land and the remaining land depends upon the rain. 50 to 70 percent paddy crop has been destroyed. I would like to know whether the drought affected areas have been identified which comes under the famine code? Farsighted policies should be formulated for that purpose in order to stop recurrence of drought situation. Even, Israel has changed deserts into fertile lands. In the desert areas of other countries of the world where monsoon does not approach, they have adopted other methods of irrigation like sprinkling system and drip irrigation. So we should also accord priority to such schemes by developing water shed management and preparing scheme of soil conservation. Besides this, there should be effective monitoring agencies which should keep a watch over the expenditure and see whether the amount earmarked for the purpose is being spent in those villages for the welfare of labourers and for those affected by famine. They should see whether the wheat, rice, oil, pulses, kerosene or clothes are being made available to the people through fair price shops or not and arrangements should be made for that. Further landless labourers and agricultural labourers should be accorded priority.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the agricultural loans should be waived off. I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture that he should make a request to the State Governments, be it a subject of a State list or Union list, that the loans taken by the farmers through co-perative societies may be waived off and recovery of loans be stopped if it is being done. If the crop insurance

has been done and their crop has been destroyed, an assessment of loss may be worked out. Insured amounts of the farmers may be provided to them. Besides this, if land revenue etc. is being collected, it should be postponed and short term loans be sanctioned. They should be provided short term loans without interest so that they can earn their livelihood during that period. It is very necessary. Community kitchens should be opened in order to provide relief to famine affected people, who are not getting even water and who are leaving their homes, to stop this migration.

[Translation]

Millions of people have left the place. However arrangement of the food for the rest of the people should be made at one place. Diseases may spread there. Due to non-availability of balanced diet, people have become weak. They are without food for a prolonged period and have become prone to various diseases by eating forest leaves, grass and roots.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, They have become too weak and are not able to work hard the whole day. Community kitchens should be opened and arrangments for supply of medicines to such poor people should be made so that they may not fall prey to untimely death by suffering from diseases in famine affected areas. Works of enduring importance should be started. Work relating to soil conservation and watershed management should be encouraged and it should be ensured that these work continue on war footing for seven months.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, complaints have also been received regarding non-payment of old-age pension and widow pension in time. They have lost this only support too. The handicapped persons, old persons and widows have not received their pensions. I have with me some clippings from newspapers and 'Onlooker' magazine in which details in this regard are given. The names alongwith photos etc. of such persons have been given in them. I would like to know from the Government that if it is correct, then what happened to the fund worth crores of rupees that was allocated for Kalahandi by the Centre? Further, how was fund allocated by the State Government spent? It is surprising that despite so much funding, the situation of famine continued to prevail there and our system just collapse even with low scale famine and all our activities stop and development is held up. We must consider it seriously as to why this fund did not reach the right hands and why it was not utilised in the right works? Why right schemes were not prepared and implemented and why good results did not come out?

Sir, there things can be considered later but at present, there is an urgent need to provide assistance to maximum number of people affected by famine in Orissa and we should help them in a liberal way in this hour of crisis. The tenth Finance Commission has made some norms in regard to National Calamity. Assistance should be provided to the famine-stricken areas of Orissa by relaxing these norms. Orissa is an important part of our country. In Sanskrit, Orissa is known as 'Utkal Desh' where there was a king called Ashok. There is also the historic Konark temple and the waves of the ocean touch the coastal boundary of that state. If a part of the body pains, the whole body feels its suffering. In the same way the suffering through which Orissa is undergoing at present, is being felt by the whole country and we all should consider it as out own suffering. The former Prime Minister is sitting here. He also visited Orissa in the capacity of the Prime Minister. He had sanctioned a K.V.K. scheme of about Rs. 4000 crore so that the problem of famine affected area could be overcome properly. I would like to know about the progress of this scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to Rajasthan. Rajasthan has also been suffering from famine but for the last few years, its geographical condition has changed. Therefore, there are less chances of famine. However, famines still occur there. When famine occured there last time, the Government of Rajasthan dealt with the problem on war footing. Even cattle did not die. Population exodus was checked, the working hands were provided work in villages and famine relief committees were set up. The people were given assistance in the form of cash and food grains. As a result, we would save many more lives. I would like to urge upon the Central Government, through you, that they should give direction to the State Government to take similar steps there and privide the required amount as relief so that the people could remember that the Centre had helped in the hour of crisis. A friend in need is a friend indeed. Therefore, it is the duty of every citizen of the country to make contribution whole heartedly.

Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister has already given the first instalment of relief amount but they should be given fund according to their demand which would definitely activate relief measures.

With these words, I thank you for giving me a chance to sepak.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (Berhampur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am in complete agreement with the suggestions given by the hon. Members and also the causes of drought conditions in Orissa which they have brought out. So, I would not like to repeat anything that has been said already.

Sir, the first thought that comes to me when I think of these districts, particularly in Orissa and the State of Orissa in general, is that these areas cannot be looked after by the State Government alone. It is just beyond the capacity of any State Government howsoever efficient and howsoever affluent. In fact, we do not have affluent State Governments in a large number in this

country. So, particularly for the Orissa Government it would be impossible to cope with a gigantic task of this nature. So not only for the drought which is more or less a regular features in these areas but the State itself, the development of the State itself and the eradication of this starkest possible poverty which you find in Orissa is a real measure of the task that needs to be handled. In my visits abroad, I have been noticing one common factor everywhere whether it is South East Asian countries or Western countries - more advanced countries. I have been asking myself whether I have seen a country where the stark poverty, absolute *nipat garibi* which I find in India in my country, do I find it elsewhere and unfortunately the answer is, no. There has been enormous improvement in this country. There is no doubt about that. We do not find the poverty of the 30s or the 40s or the 50s or even the 60s today. There is enormous improvement. But the population is growing and States like Orissa have not grown as fast as they should have whatever the reasons, I am not going into the reasons. So, today Orissa as a State and these KBK and some other districts in particularly have become the responsibility, ought to become the responsibility of the Central Government and the State Government together. It is with this realisation that our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited these areas and almost adopted them as a special care area of the Prime Minister. We have continued that tradition. We have continued that gesture of the Central Government or the Prime Minister personally and we have done something in pursuance of what he left us to do. I would like the Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda, to continue this tradition. It is not one Prime Minister who can solve these problems. It will have to be a succession of Prime Ministers over a period of time, maybe 20 years, 30 years, 40 years because meanwhile the other areas are also going ahead and the comparative differential between Orissa and the other States has to be narrowed down and if it has to be narrowed down, Orissa will have to have a special dispensation come what may and whatever be the complaints from other States. I am sure no State will complain if they are told the truth about Orissa and these districts. So, my first request to the Prime Minister would be that take these areas as a continuing responsibility of the Prime Minister and look at these areas from that point of view. If more than Rs. 4,000 crore were sought to be found over a period of time, if I remember right it was about 10 years 1992 to 2002 this is what I recollect — it may be wrong or right, it does not matter. But it was a longer period. It should be possible for the Central Government and the State Governments combined to find this money. I did not consider it impossible when the matter was brought to me and I said that it has to be done. So, this has to be taken up as a continuing responsibility. What exactly do we have to do? As several Members pointed out, giving Rs. 50 crore every year and forgetting about it, and the Re. 50 crore being spent only on what is absolutely urgent for the people to keep body and soul together, that is not enough because the population of Orissa also is growing, the poverty also is growing proportionately. Therefore, apart from what we do every year to stave off the situation, something more needs to be done.

I am quite amazed to hear from the Members and I have also been told when I went to Berhampur and Ganjam and those other places that migration was about to start or has already started. In the last three to four years, we have brought out specific programmes for specific purposes. In Maharashtra, we had, for a long time, twenty to twenty-five years, the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Now, that Scheme was, by and large, taking care of this problem of migration. There was a gurantee that anyone who is able-bodied and wants to work, needs work, would be given work, according to certain pattern which was evolved in that State. We, in the last three to four years, more or less copied that Scheme. We did not dare to say that it is a Guarantee Scheme, but we said it was an Assurance Scheme. There is not much difference between the two, so far as the spirit goes; maybe, there are technical difficulties and, therefore, we did not call it a Guarantee Scheme.

So, EAS was conceived of specifically for these situations. Now, how is it that in spite of that Scheme being available everywhere—I do not think that there are any great rules restricting the use or the commencement of these works—why should it happen in Orissa that lakhs of people have already left and what would happen in the coming months? This is perhaps due to a lackadaisical approach to the problem, I am sorry to say. Whatever happened to the other schemes, the EAS should have been on board. It should have been ready to go into operation at a moment's notice because the Scheme is made that way. The Scheme is made for meeting such emergencies. So, it has to be a continuous Scheme, it is a continuous Scheme. Nobody has told you that on 31st March or 31st December, the Scheme has to be wound up for the year. There is nothing like that. It is a continuing Scheme. If the news of such large scale migration is correct, it shows that something has not been done in time.

There is migration of a different kind—a professional migration. People, technicians etc., working in some area go to some other areas every year as a matter of routine. They go to any of the areas where the cities are being built, where fast development is taking place. That is a different migration. But migration only for livelihood, migration because in their own areas they do not get enough work for livelihood, this is something which is socially, sociologically, and economically unpardonable. You cannot uproot him from his house, from his home, from his friends, from his people and let him go to Surat or Mumbai or any other place. This is not correct. That is why, this Scheme was conceived of and it was actually put in the field.

If this has not been done, we will have to take very particular interest in seeing to it that at least now it should be stopped. A few lakhs of people have already left. It should be mounted on the largest possible scale so that there will be no further migration and there will be no conditions created to force them to migrate. This is very important.

Then the other scheme. After all, this stark poverty is because of several factors. I shall come to the agricultural side later. But, generally speaking, there is no income and, that is why, there is poverty. These are the two sides of the same coin. If you create conditions of income, poverty will come down and that was the specific purpose for which the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana was started. We could give self-employment opportunities to about five or six lakhs of people in a matter of a year and a half or two years, but considering the problem, it is a drop in the ocean. But it is not meant to be a drop in the ocean at all time. It was something which was meant to grow and that is my complaint.

The budgetary provisions of this year, for schemes that were meant to grow and for schemes that were not meant to be stagnating where they were in 1994 or 1995, have been cut down. The reason is simple. Maybe they have not been able to probably grasp the nature of these schemes which are necessarily to be increasing year after year. This has not been done. So, the scheme which was named after the Prime Minister, not after A, B or C — we knew that Prime Ministers, as persons, as human beings, are ephemeral so that there may not be any prejudice or disinclination to a particular name— they were named as the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. In Kalahandi district itself which is supposed to be one of the most backward districts, I was pleasantly surprised to be told that they are growing Basmati rice. I could not imagine and could not believe it but they all told me that "Yes. It is being grown." If it had been any other State, with a little capacity for publicity, a flair for publicity, Kalahandi would have been famous in the whole country for something else, and not for that. That is the potential of Kalahandi. We met some young men and women who were given an assistance of Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 80,000/- or Rs. 70,000/- under the PMRY. One young boy came forward and said "Sir, I am doing something which nobody else may be doing anywhere in India." I asked "What is it?" He said "I am breeding Alsatian dogs." It is true. Maybe nowhere in India, a poor boy like that has taken to this. He says :

[Translation]

"I shall repay my full loan within two years."

[English]

He was so confident that he would not need more than two years to be completely debt free, completely loan free. Although the PMRY does not necessarily exist for only two years, it is a longer period. So, the initiative of the people is there. As a farmer, I can say that in any of these areas, land is really good. In Berhampur, I can certify that the land is good provided you know how to get anything out of it.

That brings me to the most important question connected with, Shri Mishra, Agriculture. What are we doing in Berhampur? They are insisting on growing rice. They have no canals. They have to depend on the rain. Most of the lands in that area are rainfed—rainfed means the rain has to be there every 20 days, every 15 days, every 10 days. Otherwise, the yield goes down. When I went and inspected those fields, I found that even harvesting is not possible. Even harvesting is not worthwhile. They will not get even the expenses of harvesting from those fields. There is nothing more except to leave the grazing cattle in the fields so that they graze there. This is the condition there.

I would like to tell Shri Mishra that there is a great deal to be done by his scientists there. The prime need in Orissa particularly in those areas which do not have assured irrigation, the challenge for those areas is the change of cropping pattern so that you just tell them what they can grow and get something out of it. In all progressive areas of the country, the agriculturists have done it. They have done it themselves. Every agriculturist's field is something like a research centre. He grows something this year. In the next season, he grows something else and by experience in a very pragmatic fashion, the agriculturist in India is not necessarily hundered per cent supported by the scientist but by his own experience has stumbled into, has come to the right area, the right variety etc. etc.

What are they growing in Berhampur? They are growing IR8. How much time does it take? It takes four months to four-and-a-half months. I was told here in one of your exhibitions that in Orissa itself, in the Cuttack Research Centre, they have developed one seed called *Hira*-may be from Hirakud or something. I did not see any Hira there and Hira is only 75 days' crop and IR8 is 95 days' crop. If this is the ignorance which we have not been able to dispel from that poor area, what do we expect?

In Andhra Pradesh, in Karnataka, in Tamil Nadu and in many of the areas in Maharashtra, you find that you do not have this same seed in all the fields. Our agricultural research stations are bringing out dozens and dozens of new strains and we are using them. All progressive farmers are using them and sometimes they take them to task and say: "What you have said about this particular strain is not good." They tell them and they proved to them that this is not good. That is how, there is a very very live contact between the agriculturists and the scientists. That is why, agriculture has grown. That is why, we have become self-sufficient. That is why, we have had the green revolution in this country. I do not see even an iota of the green revolution or the

spirit of the green revolution anywhere in that area, unfortunately. It can become a granary.

Orissa can become another granary. It is in no way less in potential than the other areas. But if you allow 65 per cent of the water, which is itself scarce in the first instance, what can be done? Sixty-five per cent of the water goes as waste to the sea, to the Bay of Bengal. Compare it with the Cauvery, not even five per cent goes waste and compare it with the Krishna, there also very little goes to the Bay of Bengal. About the Godavari, yes, there is a problem there because where you have land, you do not have water and where you have water, you do not have land. So, about the Godavari, necessarily some part of it has to go to the sea. But even on the Godavari, if one or two huge projects, which have been stuck as a result of many technical objections, are allowed to be completed, it also can be harnessed in full.

So, what are we doing to harness this extra water in Orissa which is being just sent to the sea? So, this will have to be one of the things to do.

Now, I am on long-term measures taken particularly under the aegis of the Prime Minister of India, just to see the dark poverty of the Orissa is a thing of the past. I am not talking of any other State. I am not saying that any other State is really rolling in money. It is not like that. But then the comparative poverty, which you find there, is something which we cannot tolerate, we should not tolerate. No Prime Minister should tolerate, no Chief Minister should tolerate and we should not tolerate it.

Sir, Health. If you go into the hinterland, the interior parts of the Orissa, I must say that the health status of the children in particular, leaves much to be desired. They are giving mid-day meals since one and a half years but somehow it appears that health and education have not received the attention which they deserve and this is because of the poverty of the people. You cannot spoon feed them for everything. So, I say, make them stand on their legs. Let them have some source of income. If he is to go and migrate every year and come back, no child will over get education. More than anything else, more than the man's own generation, his younger generation, his children will become illiterate and remain illiterate. Who is going to teach them Oriya in Surat, who is going to teach them Oriya in some other States? It is not possible. Therefore, you are uprooting the the family and making it impossible for them or their children to really become useful citizens of the society. They will also continue to be manual workers like their parents. So, this is a far-reaching matter which needs to be gone into.

Now, I come to proper District Planning. It does not seem to have been done. They are trying it but they have to do it on a more systematic basis. May be there also, occasionally, the Government of India's advice and monitoring would be needed. As of 15 days back, I was told that the works were to be started. This is what they have said. At least, two Collectors told me. "Yes, Sir, we are going to start in the next few days." Members tell me that migration has already started. To be fair, in Berhampur, they did not tell me that migration has started. They told that migration may start unless we take immediate measures. And, I said, "For Heavens sake, please take immediate measures so that it can be stopped before it starts." In other districts probably the conditions are still worse. Therefore, migration started. Works have started or not, we do not know.

Would the hon. Minister kindly tell us, whether works have been started in right earnestness, if full swing, whether there is any reasonable possibility of migration starting at least now...*(Interruptions)*. Then, this will have to be particularly attended to.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Aska) : It has not even left the tables of the Ministry. The money has not come in yet.

[Translation]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : You shall say this only.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : It is your Government which rules...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : This is a serious matter. Please call for an immediate report on this, district-wise, what has started and what has not started. Will you say something?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING ANIMAL HISBANDARY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : It is not true that the work has not been started. However, it is true that it was started late. I have been recently there. The Chief Minister the Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Agriculture were present there. A meeting was held in which all the officers took part. It is true that the work got delayed.

[English]

As per our information, for drinking water 3,600 bore wells have already been sunk in certain areas of Bolangir. About 4,000 lift irrigation points have already been activated.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* You can say ...*(Interruptions)* Do you get reports from officers or some where else? I have also done this work and visited some places. You have been Prime Minister for a long time and also have been Prime Minister for a long time and also Chief Minister. If you had got it from heaven, then we have also got it from there. It will be seen later whether it is true or false...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I was requesting the Minister to tell me with a view to believing him. So, whatever he has told the House, we have to take it as true. Because, if it is not true, it is nothing to be very much glad about.

We have to be really very sorry about the migration that has already started and we have to see to it that it is stopped. If it has been stopped and works have started, I would be one who would be very happy to know about it.

Then, it again has been repeated several times about the relations between the Central Government and the State Government. I am a witness to it. In my own presence, in a Conference of all the Collectors, it was emphasized that in these very backward areas there were so many posts lying vacant for such a long time. On hon. Member just told about doctors. It is not only doctors, compounders, etc., but a large number of posts connected with development are lying vacant. If it had been only in respect of supervisory posts, I would not have bothered. They are connected with the successful implementation of the development programmes. So, if you keep them vacant, nothing will get done. This is something very important. We will have to tell the State Government about it. I have emphasised this in that meeting also but they must be having some difficulty.

I am saying this because they do have some difficulties. It is not that people do not go there just because they do not want to go, but they have some particular difficulty, of accommodation, of some allowance and so on. There are lots of causes that really deter Government servants from taking their postings seriously and go to the places where they are posted. Now, this can be the difference: the line between success and failure in the context of Orissa. It is not just a matter to be mentioned once or twice and forgotten. This is something absolutely vital and this has to be gone into in great details district-wise. Maybe, we have to go and find out. I tried to find out from my district, Berhampur, what exactly was happening there, how many posts were vacant, why had they not been filled and what kind of posts were lying vacant. This is very important. So, this will have to be done from district to district.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Who is responsible for this situation in which the officers do not go there?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Who, according to you, is responsible?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : It must be the non-attendance of the political leaders for providing the infrastructure there. Who was taking decisions for all these thirty to forty years?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, we do not have to go into the history of thirty to forty. We have very adequate answers and everythig is there. That is not the point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : If, for forty years, the Government has not been able to provide the infrastructure, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I am talking of certain areas. Perhaps, they may not even know where they exist. I am talking on a specific subject. Let us not make it ludicrous by generalising it and politicising it.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Who has not provided the the infrastructure?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Whatever has been provided, you are losing sight of it. It has been provided where it could be provided, to the extent it could be provided. Otherwise, where India would be, today, you only have to imagine. So, please do not go into that. This is a continuous process.

Development in a continuous process. Increase of needs is a continuous process. What was the population of India in 1947? What is the population today? With what face can we say that we are still running after the increase in population? We are not able to stop it. Stop it today and tomorrow you can have a wonderful programme for a particular given population of a country. That has been done in other countries. We have not been able to do it for various reasons.

So, I am only citing an example, not as an alibi, not as a defence but as a fact. So, let us not go into that. We have to tackle a particular situation, as my friend said, on a war footing. I do not know what war footing is. What I understand by war footing is having a beautiful coordination programme in all the Departments of the Government. Our Governments, whether at the Centre or in the States have not left out any programme needed for the people. Coordination is needed; timely action is needed; intensive implementation is needed and monitoring is needed. These are the four things which do not cost money but do need a little effort to go into it.

Sir, I entirely agree with what the Government says. What is needed in these areas are, (i) drought-proofing. Now, drought-proofing is a very good word and a comprehensive word. But drought-proofing is a gamut of say 10, 12 or 20 programmes, all rolled in one in such a way that there is perfect coordination. Only then, drought-proofing is possible. Then, (ii) developmental saturation. Drought-proofing and developmental saturation are the two objectives. Now, can we say that there is saturation of development in any area of India? It looks unimaginable that there are areas where there is development saturation. There are villages where they do not need anything more. So, they have their time fully devoted to politics. There are areas and there are blocks like that. There are villages like that. So, there is saturation of development, but not at all places. That is what is needed in these areas because no

matter how much money you spend from here or from Bhubaneshwar, unless the man is able to sutain himself financially and economically, it is just not possible to say that he would be able to become a profitable unit for himself in this society. The existing conditions permitting, he would become really a useful unit of the society only under certain circumstances, in case these inputs are given to him in time and effectively. This is what I would like to say.

So, I would like to tell Shri Mishra also one more point. Many areas in Orissa are ideal for hotriculture. I cannot imagine how good it would be and how profitable it would be after ten years if you take a programme of horticulture today, say over five lakhs of acres or two lakhs of acres in Orissa. I have seen Shri K.P. Singh Deo's constituency. I have been looking at lands there wherever I go, even if I go for votes. I also look at the lands there. I find absolutely faultless land and faultless soil. For instance, I did not find too many alkaline patches. You will find it in Andhra Pradesh and other places. Since Orissa is a sloping land, all the rivers are coming there. Probably those rivers see to it that alkaline patches are not created and they flow into the sea.

I find that the lands in Orissa are in no way inferior and in many cases superior lands with more humus content and with more fertility than some other States. These are some of the things I wanted to say. The rain fed areas have become a problem to agriculture in Orissa.

So, these are some of the things. The rain-fed areas have become a problem to the agriculture in Orissa. There are many other States where it was the case 20 years ago or 25 years ago; but their conditions have changed and there is no such thing as rain-fed area in a large measure there. But the measures of backwardness or the test of backwardness is that the rain-fed areas are plenty in Orissa. These are the things which I wanted to highlight.

Whatever immediate programmes are to be taken up, I am sure, they will be taken up. If they are not taken up, all of us will have to pursue them because every day counts in the life of a person who is starving or whose children are suffering from malnutrition; and if this is allowed to go beyond a point, they will be of no use either to themselves or to their families. These are the real stakes of the drought situation. I hope that all of us irrespective of political persuasion or anything, will take it up as a very very big challenge before us.

Now, coming to the underground situation, Orissa is one of the richest States in underground wealth. The mineral wealth is something fantastic. It has fantastic mineral wealth which still has not been tapped to the extent it should be and maybe, for the next 25 years or 30 years with full attention and full resources, if Orissa is tapped, it will not remain the most backward State in India, but it will be among the front-runners; and I have no doubt about that.

Orissa has got a potential of 10 to 12 MW of electricity. But where is it now? Today, they say with some amount of pride that Orissa is in surplus. Yes, it is in surplus. Why is it in surplus? It is because it is not being used. The industrialisation programme in Orissa has not yet taken off in spite of two 'Patnaiks' struggling with it.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : One Patnaik is struggling. The other is not.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : He is struggling more than you.

As regards power production, the potential has to be improved. This is not for Orissa alone. We want power, others want power, the whole country wants power. They are thirsty for power. There were many other States which were famous for their surplus power like Karnataka, Maharashtra. Today we are deficit. I am told, Orissa is an example where everyone can do his bit to see that electricity is produced. The mineral wealth seems to be enormous there.

What I am saying is that drought is not of one kind and it is not for one day. It is also not by one cause or by one programme that it can be obviated. No. It can be abolished only by all these things put together because it has become a chronic case. I am afraid that poverty in Orissa is something which needs to be immediately attended to and it can be done only when we have such a multi-faceted programme for the development of Orissa.

I am thankful to you, Sir, for having given me this opportunity.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult to speak after listening to the speech of the former Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mishraji, is saying that how long the House shall function. It depends on the House itself.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Whenever the problem of the Eastern region is taken up, we do not get time, we do not get money and we do not get anything. This is the reason for that. When the discussion took place the other day, nobody objected to it. But when we take up the problem of the Eastern region like Bengal, Orissa and Bihar, nobody is having the funds, nobody is having the time and they are having other things, unfortunately.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no problem regarding time. You have to decide in this regard.

[English]

You have to decide it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, tomorrow is Friday. So, let us sit for two or three hours more and complete it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Jenaji, what do you want to say.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I have no objection because this is a serious matter and Members are interested to participate. Let them participate and if you can extend the time and accommodate as many Members as possible, it would be all right and the Prime Minister may reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Time has already been extended.

[Translation]

Two hours time is over now.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The Hon'ble Prime Minister will reply, tomorrow.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want it to be concluded today? That is the only point I want to know from you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The Prime Minister will reply to the discussion and before that, the Minister of Agriculture, if he wants to speak today, can speak or he may speak tomorrow. But the Prime Minister will reply tomorrow.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : If the Prime Minister is going to speak tomorrow, it is better that I speak today itself.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : How is it possible? There are so many Members to speak.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : That is why I suggested that we can extend the time today to accommodate the hon. Members. Let them participate and after the end of the discussion, hon. Minister of Agriculture will say whatever he wants to say on the subject.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : If you fix it up for tomorrow, I may tell you that I have to attend the other House also. That is why, I say that he can speak tomorrow and I think I can speak today.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : You can intervene today.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am ready for that. Mine will be an intervention but the main reply will be given by him. We can manage that way and if you like, I can do it after he finishes his speech...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how long the House shall function?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall tell you at 6 o'clock. However, it is to be decided by you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to two points mentioned by the earlier speaker. One is to develop the drought prone areas. The earlier Government had put it under the Prime Minister's direct supervision and after taking it under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister, the worst drought and problems have come up. If this is the result, I would request the Prime Minister not to have it under his direct supervision.

We do not want to discuss the reason because everybody knows that Orissa has the richest underground resources and poorest people. We all know that this is the fate of the Eastern region and Orissa. This is the result of decades of heartless exploitation and careless attitude towards the Eastern region. Only because of the exploitation and at the cost of the Eastern region, Orissa is undergoing this type of suffering today.

Secondly, KVKs were declared last year, just before the Assembly election of Orissa. It was just for the elections because no scheme was projected earlier and no programme was taken under the Plan.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : In 1993, when the hon. former Prime Minister had gone to Bolangir and Kalahandi, he had announced the programme of KVKs.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : What is the result? It is not included in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : You talked about the elections and that is why, I am telling you that he had declared it in 1993.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, this is the true reality to which I want to draw the attention of the House and not just gloss over the reality. We talk of unity and integrity of the country and at the same time, we intentionally allow certain flowers of our motherland to dry. Till this attitude does not go, this type of drought will occur again and again. This is my first objection that I want to place before this House. The time has come that the whole nation avoided this type of negligence to this region as has happened for decades.

This is the first problem.

Several hon. Members have already mentioned about many other problem. You know that out of 30 districts, 27 have been declared drought-affected. The scarcity of rainfall may have risen this time. But what about irrigation? When the British left, in Orissa, 11 per cent land was irrigated. After 50 years, how much land

have we for irrigation? It is only 30 per cent or another 10 or 12 percent. It is less than 30 per cent in Orissa. What is the growth? That means, we have continuously neglected irrigation whether it is the State Government or the Central Government. As I have told, this is the way the mind works at the Centre. That is also another reason.

All the hon. Members have mentioned about the food shortage. Now you have to decide how to provide food to those people. Forty-one lakh families live below the poverty line there. In the coming months, how will they survive? This question should be pondered over by the Ministry of Agriculture. And the Prime Minister sitting with all the Ministers, should think over how to provide food in the coming months to at least those 41 lakh families who are living below the poverty line.

The Public Distribution System should be revamped immediately. There is no Public Distribution System in Orissa. There are no proper fair price shops. There are no proper ration cards. How will you give them food? If the entire administrative machinery does not work immediately, many more people will die. One hundred to two hundred people have already died. The college students have gone to Mumbai. They have left for their studies in Mumbai. As per the newspaper reports, they are under serious exploitation. In that situation the Public Distribution System should be strengthened from tomorrow itself. We have to see how these people would get their food. They should stop eating grass. They are eating the roots. They are drinking contaminated water. All sorts of health hazards are there. The people who are staying back are women, children and old people. They are infirm. More than two lakh able-bodied people have left Orissa for other parts of the country. The weakest children, women and the old have been left there to face the vagaries of nature. We do not know how those people would survive if we do not immediately arrange food, drinking water and medicines for them. The concerned Ministers should sit together under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister immediately. Otherwise thousands of people may die. This is the situation we are facing.

We have to stop the migration immediately. We have also to arrange work for them. Sixty per cent to the people there are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe and backward people. Most of them are agricultural labourers. Where will they work? Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao spoke earlier about the schemes. All the schemes are there. But why have not these been implemented properly? So, these schemes should also be implemented properly. Then, the agricultural labourers can get jobs. The State Government have submitted before the Central Government that if they are to give jobs to the agricultural labourers, they would need about Rs. 500 crore. From where will that money come if it is not a part of the Budget or if there is no extra budgetary support in the coming supplementary Budget?

As a good gesture, the Prime Minister has given money from his Relief Fund. It is not a question of relief. We do not want mercy of relief. If this money is not planned, Rs. 500 will never come through. Only after a discussion, it will be over. So, I want that the Government should give a categorical statement from where these Rs. 500 crore will come up to June to give work to the agricultural labourers and to stop migration in order to save them from starvation.

The cultivators have a serious problem.

18.00 hrs.

Fifty per cent of the crops have been destroyed. The cultivators—the small peasents, the medium ranking peasents and even the rich peasents—are in great distress. Their crops have been destroyed. There should be some compensation for them. The type of compensation and the amount of compensation that could be given to them, whether it should be through crop insurance or through some other scheme, should be formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance. The amount of compensation should be declared here. If it is not possible immediately then the Government should prepare an action plan in the coming months for the protection of the farmers and the affected persons.

Sir, all the plans are announced in advance. We have spent fifty years since our Independence and I would like to request the Government not to display such a callous and negligent attitude. It is a criminal attitude on the part of the Centre, it is a calculated attempt to destroy the Eastern region. Now it is the time to come forward and take a pledge that we would not allow a single person to die, as is happening every year, in Orissa. This is what we have to do. How could we do it? We should make a Master Plan. The Planning Commission should make a separate Plan for all these KBK districts and the districts of Palamau, Raipur and some other districts. There are, maybe, some 15-20 districts in our country which are perpetual victims of starvation due to drought conditions.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have a list which mentions the names of the Minister of Agriculture and 10 other hon'ble Members. Would you like to sit for half or one more hour. If each Member is allotted 5 minutes time, then it will take about one hour time.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, yesterday at this stage it was decided that the sitting of the House would be extended by an hour and the Members would limit their speeches to five to seven minutes. Today also it could be done like that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, this is what I also want to say.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it is because the constituencies of the Members have been affected and they would like to specifically raise their points. They will not repeat the points and that would be better. So, let the sitting of the House be extended.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, the sitting of the House is extended by one hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, let it be for two hours.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : One hour in already over and we will think of extending time later.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Here all are sitting with ease. One or two hours do not make any difference.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It does not matter but it is to be decided by the House.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, what I would like to propose is that a Master Plan should be prepared and the hon. Prime Minister should promise here and now that they want to prepare a Master Plan for the drought-prone districts of the country. We do not want to listen to speeches. We have had enough of them. We want a concrete Master Plan for the rescue and development of the people of the perpetually drought-prone areas. That is necessary.

Sir, the other point which I would like to submit is that in these districts there is no small scale industries, no horticulture and no other scheme. If there is comprehensive planning and if there is a monitoring committee in the Central Government and if the State and the Central Governments together implement the plan, then we hope that next time we would not have to come here for such a discussion.

Sir, I would like to request the Government that the entire drought-affected area should be officially declared as a drought-prone area. As the Minister has already said that it is a national calamity, it should be treated with that outlook.

Secondly, in regard to the Employment Guarantee Scheme I would like to submit that this Rs. 500 crore should be provided for in the Supplementary Demands for Grants so that these agricultural labourers and unemployed people could get some job upto the month of June, 1997.

Thirdly, payment of pension to the widow or the aged people have been stopped for months together. These poorest and weakest people should immediately get their due compensation without any break.

The Public Distribution System should immediately be revamped. Cheap or free ration should be given to these poor people, at least for coming few months, to save the people from this part of the country.

Finally, Sir, a master plan should be announced for KBK districts and some other districts where such a problem reoccurs so that we can properly face the challenge in future. With these words I thank you.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : The crisis in Orissa, manifested in the form of drought, in my view is not a problem of certain districts of that particular State or even that of Orissa. It is a part of the national programme to see that Orissa gets proper assistance in overcoming these difficulties which they are now facing.

To begin with, I want to acquaint the House with the grave reality of Orissa's economy. Sir, I have got in my possession certain grim economic indicator. Agriculture holds 33.24 per cent share in the Net Domestic Product of the State and provides employment directly or indirectly to about 64 per cent of the total work force in the State. In a year's total agricultural performance, the Kharif session plays a dominant role by contributing nearly 80 per cent of the output. The grim situation can be further realised if we are informed properly that only 30 to 35 per cent of the land of the State is irrigated and the major land of the State depends on the vagaries of nature. That being the economic reality of Orissa, the State needs special consideration not only to tied over the present crisis but also for its all-round development-socio-economic development, cultural development and development in the fields of related matters.

The present situation has got its impact on the overal economic situation of Orissa. In my view, it has its impact not only on the economic situation of Orissa but on the nation's economy as a whole. Therefore, we are very much concerned about Orissa and its people. We urge upon the Government to have an integrated development programme so that Orissa can tied over this situation.

Sir, I say with pride that the Minister of Agriculture, a few days ago, announced and I quote:

> "Nobody shall be allowed to die due to starvation".

This bold announcement is really the reflection of the emotions of the House. It is not only his emotional expressions, it echoes the emotions of the House. It is the emotion of the people at large outside the House. This Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, could meet the commitment it has made in its Common Minimum Programme. The Programme also says that there should be reduction of poverty. I am very glad to announce here what I have read recently in certain newspapers. The Prime Minister has announced that poverty in India will be eradicated by 2005. That is the commitment of the Prime Minister, of course, the CMP did not fix any time nor did it specify the date or year by which poverty will be eliminated. I appreciate the public statement made by the Prime Minister that poverty in India would be eliminated by the year 2005. I congratulate him for this announcement. I hope he will

do his best to keep his commitment, to take the nation in that direction so that poverty is eradicated, not only from Orissa but from very nook and corner of this country.

Sir, the former Prime Minister was very eloquent about the KBK project in Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi Districts. I am in support of the view that poverty should not be a partisan subject. If removal of poverty is the consideration of Parliament and if that is the commitment of the Prime Minister, there is no quarrel on the question as to which programme should be adopted and which programme should not be adopted. It is good that the former Prime Minister, late Rajiv Gandhi, and the former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao made an announcement about the Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi project. The project estimate was Rs. 4,557 crore—I do not know whether there was an actual assessment of resource mobilisation—and it was said that it will remove all the problems that these Districts were facing. May I put a question to the hon. former Prime Minister with all humility and with all politeness? Is it not a fact that when he launched the KBK programme in August 1995, the Centre's share for that year was Rs. 73 crore? And what was actually made available to the State Government by March, 1996? It was a mere Rs. 4.24 crore.

Sir, I am bound to make my comments on this. He promised Rs. 73 crore for the execution of Koraput, Bolangir, Kalahandi project as Centre's share, and he gave to the State only Rs. 4.5 crore. Will you allow me, Sir, to make a little harsh comment at this stage? Is it not a criminal indifference to the commitment made? Is it not a hollow promise? Of course, I think it is achieving excellence in public relations. It was a Rs. 4557 crore project inaugurated by the former Prime Minister. In 1995 the Central Government committed Rs. 73 crore and the actual amount made available was Rs. 4.5 crore. The hon. Minister of Agriculture can very well correct me, if I am wrong.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Even that money was not made available. The scheme is yet to start.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Agriculture Minister is on record to say that even Rs. 4.5 crore was not made available to the State. I was only quoting from a newspaper report.

I am glad and I am grateful to you that you have exposed the truth about it, the whole truth of it and the kernel of the truth. *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the truth?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The truth is that you have not given anything. The truth is that you excel in propaganda. The truth is that you have good and excellent public relations performance. That is the truth. *(Interruptions)* That does not mean that I want this present Government to abandon that project. I will not say. I will not say that you jettison that plan, you give up that plan and that you abandon that plan. I will not say. That plan if it is really beneficial, if it is worked out scientifically, it should be continued and the Centre should adopt that project to the extent it is possible and fund it.

I am ending very soon, within three to four minutes.

This kind of programme is to be evolved on the district basis. As a matter of fact, it is my experience that there should be specific district strategy. Every district has different kinds of problem, every district has got different kinds of resource mobilisation, and every district has got its own problems. Therefore, in a nutshell, I shall say that we should evolve this strategy and District Action Plan, not only in the case of Orissa but for all over the country. That strategy should have four thrusts.

Firstly, productivity enhancement in agriculture including livestock, fisheries and agro-forestry should be there. Secondly, income enhancement through diversification, value addition, agro industries should be there. Thirdly, investment in hard-core infrastructure, rural institution including Z.P. and panchayats should be there. Fourthly, this kind of Action Programme should target the rural public distribution and other poverty alleviation programmes.

In order to do that and after having worked out this District Strategy and Plan of Action, there should be a sufficient or adequate arrangement for developing a suitable or appropriate machinery for execution. In that case, I feel that some kind of mechanism should be involved in which the elected representatives of the people be included; institutions and centres of research and training should also be involved. Government agencies of that particular district should also be involved; non-Governmental organisations should also be involved; big industrial houses from the corporate sector should also be involved in the development of that particular district; financial institutions and banks are also be involved; mass media is also to be involved so that a mass awareness is created for the developmental work.

Lastly, this programme can be successful if there is an adequate and appropriate monitoring machinery and that monitoring machinery should be created and it should do round the year work so that the timeframe is maintained and the time schedule is maintained and the cost escalation is prevented.

I want that this Government should continue to implement the electoral promise that have been made, either through the announcement of the Government from time to time, or through the Common Minimum Programme, which is the bedrock of this Government. I hope that the Government will never abandon it.

Thank you very much.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have closely listened to all the points raised by my colleagues in this House. The suggestions and recommendations are, no doubt, exemplary. The

question now is, 'how do we meet the situation now and what do we do for the future?'

Narasimha Raoji put across poverty among plenty. That is why I had suggested once when I was the Chief Minister, 'Could I have a separate financial independence so that your Central Government does not swindle all my resources and leave me high and dry?' The taxes that Narasimha Raoji and this present Government of India has taking from Orissa's resources amount to Rs. 700 crore a year. And what do they get from the Prime Minister, it is niggardly Rs. 50 crore.

In an emergency situation like this, the suggestion of Rs. 500 crore was only needed for 100,000 mandays to be provided in this area. So there is a need of about Rs. 500 crore. I am surprised that the Government of India or this Exchequer cannot divert some of the income through excise, through other things like royalty from our ores and coal for the succour of the poor. If we were a separate Government, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would have done that first.

My resources are meant for the people. But the Government of India's resources are meant for whom? It is meant for the Government of India and not for the people of that area from which it benefits. Therefore, I had suggested this then and when I was the Chief Minister I wrote a distressing letter to the then Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao, working out the total number of mandays, the total amount of money required. If you remember correctly, Mr. Narasimha Rao, I asked for only Rs. 125 crore and I wrote at the end, 'for my people, to beg I am not ashamed' — I have not yet received a reply from Shri Narasimha Rao till today — and they draw Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 700 crore from my resources of say everything coal, bauxite or whatever it is. Don't you? This is what makes me see red.

18.23 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*)

For a long time, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Opposition in Orissa have been going round to the people and have been clamouring from district to district that drought is coming and the Government must be aware and awake. The Chief Minister and the State Ministers have gone to Japan. I had pointed it out that this was not the time to go and flirt around and sight seeing in different countries, you would get nothing out of those countries. Japan is not yesterday's baby. But they go to Tokyo, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore for a nice long jaunt and here the people are running away from the State. As the Minister of Agriculture puts it, 'lakhs of people ran away from the State looking for jobs elsewhere.'

The Minister of Revenue kept on urging and saying that there is going to be heavy signs of drought. The Chief Minister goes on saying that this is only the story of the Opposition. Today, in the Assembly he is saying, 'it is a national calamity.' Was he sleeping all this time?

How does the Agriculture Minister, who meets the same set of officers in Bolangir or Kalahandi district, expect them to give the right figures? I know it for a fact that even if Shri Narasimha Rao checks it in his areas, in well-built Ganjam, he will find that sixty per cent of the pumps are unfit, defunct. And in Kalahandi and Bolangir area, more than 80 per cent of the pumps are not working. Anybody who has gone there will find this. Our Party people had gone down to the Panchayat and checked it. They said: 'Through whom do we check?' Our Party people had gone around from point to point and given me a full report, which I have got. According to which, 80 per cent of the pumps are defunct and they are under repair. Will they be repaired after the rains? You see, this is the nature. I am very sad about it.

A Government is a continuous affair. Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister or somebody else may be the Prime Minister today and some third person will be the Prime Minister tomorrow. That is not the point. But the point is that the Government machinery has to function and that machinery can function only with the urging of the top people, whether it is the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister or whoever it is. Now that is not happening. Is it not sad? I do not wish to decry any person. It is not a person that I am interested and it is the system. The system is not working.

Sir, when the Britishers came, they first landed in Madras and connected Madras to Calcutta line because the people of Orissa or the bows and arrows of Orissa pushed them out of the coast of Puri, coast of Chilka. So, they went around and found the Hooghly river, landed in a place called 'Kalaighat', which was a village of Calcutta. They decided to settle down and slowly built the city of Calcutta. Now, all my friends from Calcutta come and say: 'We are proud Bengalis.' They were only proud fishermen at that time, 200 years back. Two hundred years back there was no Bombay. The island of Bombay was sold for 16 guineas by the Queen of Spain to the Queen Elizabeth of British. Now it has become the citadel of the financial institutions of India. So, everything goes on there. The East India Company had built the line, Madras to Calcutta. The same East India Company had built the line, Calcutta to Bombay. The same East India Company had built the line, Calcutta to Delhi. They built all these lines long before the Indian Railways took them over.

Mr. Railway Minister, how many miles East India Company had built? They built 58,000 miles. How many new lines we had constructed? How much have we added to it? Only about 8,000 miles. This is the performance of this nation. We produce 15 million tonnes of steel and China produces 110 million tonnes of steel. I am just giving you the measures of the nation's effort. China is trying to cut down their population by pursuing 'one child norm'. We have no limit to our children; whether this Prime Minister or that Prime Minister or whoever it is, they have ten children, eight

children or five children. How can we control? We have a Chief Minister having 10 children and a Prime Minister having seven children. Who will have the mind to control the population? It must be a ruthless mind to control the population.

Shri Narasimha Rao says that we have to have a manageable population. I agree with him. I agree with the present Prime Minister also or whoever it is. We have to have a menageable population.

The population went from 30 crores to 96 crores. It is not a manageable population at all. We have to bring it down. We have to steady it and then bring it down. In 20 or 30 years time, we must bring it down to 50 crores if we start it now, today, this moment. I have asked the Planning Commission officials when I met them in the Parliamentary Committee as to what they were doing for population control or for reducing the population. They are doing nothing. I asked them if they had provided one rupee in the Budget to cut down the population. There is nothing specific. Family control and family planning are like some silly things. No, Sir, that is not the way. This country needs a lot of rearrangement to live. This Parliament needs a lot of rearrangement today. It is because just an entire section of Parliament comes under the House, therefore it is something rather before the hon. Speaker.

That is not the way of building things. The national has to learn. Otherwise it is of no use our people going round the world and shaking hands with the people of Chinese origin who can produce 110 million tonnes of steel when you produce 10-15 million tonnes. You can cut down the population of 100 crores. We want to bring it down to 70 crores. Can you plan? Have you got a plan to bring it down to this? Otherwise all you are doing is increasing the poverty line. Whom will you support? How much will you give? And who will vote for you?

What is Rs. 50 crore? It is a pittance. For Orissa's misery, it is a pittance. It is not only meant to provide some work but some monetary benefit also has to be given. I do not consider it so, Sir. The former Prime Minister then announced the KVK programme, without it going to the Planning Commission without going throught the nuts and bolts of Plan and money. The present Prime Minister also thinks so and he is toying with the idea. It is not an idea. It is a need. It is an urgent need of the people, the suffering masses. If it can be done, do it. If it cannot be done, then as I said earlier, leave it alone to the State and leave the resources alone to themsleves. They will manage it. They will do better than what the Government of India is doing. I have no doubt. The people and the officers will be conscious. They will be responsible and they will do it. I have known that they have done it. In 1961 they had done it when I was the Chief Minister. Great assets were built at that time under Shri Nehru's leadership. This can be done. This can well be done. I hope that it will be done and my State and my suffering people will have a better life in times to come.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ganga Charan Rajput please. Please be short because time is short and the Minister has to intervene.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Calling Attention Motion on the drought situation in Kalahandi.

Today, Kalahandi has become synonymous of drought and it is not that Kalahandi has come in the grip of drought for the first time. When we think of drought, Kalahandi strikes our mind and when we talk of Kalahandi, the drought situation at once surfaces in the memory. But the Government has not taken any action so far to combat the drough situation of Kalahandi. The area under forest cover has alarmingly decreased there. The Government has not formulated any scheme so far under which the opinion of environment experts could be sought by forming a team as to why the area is hit by drought again and again? Had the Government thought about the factors responsible for drought in Kalahandi, the area could not been hit by the drought again. The Government spends Rs. 15000 crore every year on drought and flood. Rs. 8000 crore are spent on flood relief measures while the same amount is spent on drought and national calamities just as the Government has provided Rs. 6031 crore for Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 50 crore for drought in Kalahandi. We should take it seriously. The incidents of natural calamities are increasing in the country in the same proportion as the environment is being sabotaged. We destroy the nature gradually but the nature destroy us in one stroke. I am aware of the pains and sufferings of the drought because I represent the area which is drought prone. When people in Bundelkhand cry for a drop of water and women cover atleast ten kilometres to bring water in earthen posts, they sing a folk song-"Khasam mar jaye, magar ghaghari naa foote." It is a famous song of Bundelkhand that let husband die but the pot filled with water that she is carrying, should not break.

Sir, even after fifty years of independence, the Government could not change the basic infrastruture. The money is being misappropriated in the country. The Government is providing subsidy on a number of items but the basic amenities are not being provided. We should first bring about a change in basic infrastructures like road, school, hospital and potable water. Environment is being destroyed. If the present area under forest cover is compared with the area under forest cover available at the time of independence, it can be noticed that it has decreased by fifty percent. Uttarakhand is also facing the problem of erosion and land slide. We should discuss today these basic issues

I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to form a Committee of environment experts to give their opinion on this issue. This issue, at present, is not concerning only India but the entire world is concerned with it. The Government should consider the problem of increasing pollution. It has taken an alarming shape in Delhi, specially in the areas where the hon. Member of Parliament and Ministers are residing. It is very difficult to breath in these areas. When we gargle in the morning, the water becomes black. The Government does not consider this problem. The Supreme Court is taking initiative, giving verdicts on all such public related issues, taking steps to shift the factories out of Delhi. Population, food adulteration, crimes, corruption and prices are increasing in the country but the Government is unmoved and looks to be unconcerned and all the responsibilities have been taken by the Supreme Court. If the Executive does not perform its duties, the Supreme Court (Judiciary) will take charge of the Executive. We have been watching that the Government has not been doing any work for the last five years and the Supreme Court has been doing all the works. The hon. Ministers neither pay attention to our complaints nor take any action. No action is taken on the complaints of corruption. Sir, you hail from north-east area of the country which is a forest dominated area and therefore is very prosperous. I want that area under forest cover of the country should be increased like north east areas and population as well as pollution sould be decreased.

18.39 hrs.

(Shri P.C. Chacko *in the Chair)*

If these measures are taken, the problem of drought, flood and natural calamities will automatically be solved. The Government spends Rs. fifteen thousand crore annually but if this money is spent on making reservoirs and increasing the forest area, only then something can be done. I always suggest the hon. Minister to engage two crore unemployed youth. There are twenty five thousand MBBS degree holders but people are dying in the country. Work can be taken from unemployed engineers, graduates and post graduates by giving them some money for their bread and butter. The Government should formulate a youth policy seeking the opinion of young M.Ps. You are not at all concerned about youths. Had you been in opposition, you would have concerned about youth. You forget them when you are in power. Jenaji and several other M.Ps. are associated with youth movement but nobody remembers these young people. They forget them when they are in power. I want to say that this youth power should be utilised for nation building activities, they should be imparted training and instil good habits. If the young people who have resorted to drugs, who are wasting their youthful days by participating in the violent movement of the country, are engaged in constructive activities, I can assure you that this poorest country of the world can emerge as a most powerful country of the world. Actually we do not lack anything except determination and will power and positive attitude of the Government. I do not hestitate in saying that there has been no change in Government machinery and its work inspite of change of power at the Centre.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to wind up the loss making schemes and stop the subsidy and utilise this fund to strengthen the basic infrastructure. The hon. Prime Minister had announced to reduce the prices of small tractors but inspite of his announcement, the prices of small tractors could not be reduced. The hon'ble Prime Minister had announced to waive off the stamp duty of farmers but it could not materialise. What is use of these announcements? The hon. Prime Minister claims himself to be a poor farmer's son but his entire family travels in plane. What type of a poor farmers son is he? He claims time and again that he is least attached to politics and he has come to Delhi with a single attachee. Why has he made the politics a dirty game? Make the politics neat and clean where everybody may claim that he is associated with politics. Who so ever has come to this House, cannot say that he is not concerned with politics. Unless the people of the country are concerned with the Government and its policies, our country may not prosper. The common man will have to be associated with politics. He must be aware of the Government he is going to form and its policies and should know, whether it is working in his interest or not.

Sir, the Government may claim today that it is spending money for the development of the villages but the fact is that the Government spends 70 percent of the total budget in five metropolitan cities, and two hundred cities and only 20 percent is spent on 5.75 lakh villages. The Government makes false promises and is misleading the farmers. Please stop this misleading. The betal leaf produced in Mahua of Bundelkhand is famous in the world but the farmers are facing the same problem. It is exported in Lalitpur but due to heavy rains the betal crop has been destroyed. The farmers of that area are on the verge of starvation. Therefore, I urge upon the Agriculture Minister to fix per hectare compensation for the farmers' land revenue and their loans and remit students fee. The farmers of Kalahandi should get atleast Rs. 2000 per hectare compensation or whatever the Government decides. The Government should also make arrangements for potable water for the farmers of Kalahandi even by borrowing loans from the world Bank by undertaking boring works. The moment farmers get water, the drought will automatically end. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sriballav Panigrahi. Please conclude in five minutes because there are many Members to speak.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Then, Sir, I shall better not speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to finish the discussion today. So, I am requesting every Member who wants to speak to finish his speech in five minutes.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I cannot finish in five minutes. So, I will not speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House has to decide about extending the sitting. We have time only up to seven o'clock.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : You are saying that we can extend the sitting of the House, but we should get sufficient time to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Sir, please extend the house upto 7.30 p.m.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, We had demanded for extending the House for another two hours, please extend it for one more hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the Members are prepared to sit up to eight o' clock I have no objection.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : We are ready.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We are prepared, but we should be given adequate time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is no pleasure to participate in a debate of this nature. On various occasions, natural calamities like cyclone, flood and drought have come up for discussion in Parliament. I very often think that Orissa is a cursed State. It is a State which can be called rightly as an abode of natural beauty and natural resources, but it is also an abode of natural calamities! Since there is a time restriction I am not going to elaborate on that point.

Sir, in Orissa 40 per cent of the people live below the poverty line and this is the highest percentage in the whole country. So, it is a land of abject poverty and it is a question of poverty that we are all discussing today. Of course, the deficient rainfall or the erratic rainfall has aggravated the position. But the fundamental question is the question of poverty. As per the Government record, only 33.2 per cent of the cultivated land is served by different sources of irrigation. But this figure is also disputed. The State of Orissa is one of the States with the least facilities of irrigation in the whole of the country and barring this 33.2 per cent of the cultivated land, the rest is exposed to the vagaries of nature.

Sir, we are all grateful to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Agriculture that they have visited Orissa. They have gone to some of the worst affected pockets. They also appreciate the seriouness of the situation in a realistic manner and that is why they deserve our thanks. Shri Chaturanan Mishra is a very senior Member of Parliament and now he is the Minister of Agriculture. I would like to say that the real situation is worse than that of the situation which has been reported by the State Government in its report and it is going to be more grim in the days to come.

The report of the Government of Orissa is an Interim Report. My esteemed colleague Shri K.P. Singh Deo has elaborated as to how the situation is changing very fast within a span of one or two weeks. The drought condition is there almost all over the State, of course, in varying degrees. Barring a few pockets having the benefits of assured irrigation, even the tail-end portion in the *Ayacut* is also affected by the drought. I am not going into the figures.

Sir, I would have really congratulated Shri Biju Patnaik—the seniormost Member who had the good fortune of becoming the Chief Minister of Orissa twice and once the Chairman of the State Planning Board-had he taken the blame for all that is happening today, the misfortune of the people, on to himself to some extent. There was no real spirit. He says that everything was well when he was the Chief Minister. He had global tours once, twice or even more than that in search of investment for locating a steel plant there. He did *bhoomi pujan* with the famous NRI, Shri Swaraj Paul. Everything is in air now. Where is he now?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I think it is not proper to say all this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a point, Panigrahiji. Please come back to the present drought situation. Otherwise, you may not get time.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I would like to say that three years ago a serious matter arose in this House about hundreds of starvation deaths that took place in the district of Koraput. Nobody other than his Deputy-Speaker, Mr. Dora, the Deputy-Speaker of Orissa Assembly who was from Koraput, complained about this on the floor of the Orissa Assembly. But I am not going to defend the present State Government also. What I mean to say is that—as Shri Narasimha Raoji has put—the situation, the magnitude and seriousness of the problem is such that it is beyond the capacity of any State Government. We have been discussing this matter with the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister. In the month of September a senior officer, the Commissioner, was sent to different districts. In the first part of October, the Government of Orissa submitted a situation report to the Government of India which was later on followed by a regular memorandum during November. Again in the month of September, about Rs. 20 crore was released for providing employment. It was mainly to activate the allied activities. About 75 per cent subsidy was allowed to the cultivators to get the benefit

of allied activities. As you know, during rainy season, they do not execute the agreements because money is required to be paid. Every day there were dark clouds in the sky and the farmers were looking at the sky. They were hopeful that any moment it might rain. In spite of such concessions having been announced, many people in many areas, did not want to avail of this concession because they were thinking that there might be rain. So, this way some arrangements were made and some measures were taken. But ultimately what do we find? I have got the rain chart. But since there is no dispute that there is a grim situation prevailing in varying degrees in almost all over the State, I need not go into it. In September and October, 25 per cent of the formal rainfall was there. Therefore, even without the October rain, they were expecting a bumper crop in coastal areas and in the low lying areas. But that is also drying up. So, this way the report sent by them is not the final report. The final report is yet to emerge on the basis of crop cutting. Sir, I do not know whether it was my good fortune or misfortune. I was the Revenue Minister of Orissa for some time and I was also entrusted with the responsibility of tackling one of the worst droughts in Orissa in 1975. So, the crop cutting experiment is also another gamble. If you do it according to famine code and prescription, then you have to spend several crores of rupees to get adequate and proper crop cutting arrangements.

Who is doing that? So, we have to believe people, the officers, and the public representatives. It is a question of human misery and human suffering. It should not be politicised. Therefore, I am not going to comment on that part, even though some Members are trying to do this.

I would like to say one thing. What is the need of the hour? What are the requirements? One of the objectives is, and I entirely agree with the Union Agriculture Minister, that nobody should be allowed to die of hunger. It is very correct and welcome also. Second point is that nobody should be allowed to suffer from thirst because of shortage of water. I would like to make one addition to this. The third one should be that not even an inch of cultivable land should be allowed to go uncovered in the coming Kharif crop. This is like slow poisoning. It has been rightly observed that we have dealt effectively with cyclone and floods. That way also, we can take measures to correct the situation within one month's time or something like that. When houses collapse, you can give some land so that they can build some structures thereupon within two or three or five months.

It is just like slow poisoning. In the case of slow poisoning, one suffers and ultimately dies. This sort of plight will go on; it will go up to the next harvest, until October-November or until the rain God is favourable. Even today, after 50 years of Independence, we still have that famous saying that Indian Budget is a gambling on monsoon. It is still prevalent, it still holds good. If rain God, Indra, is kind enough, if there is a good rainfall, everything is all right, then the necessary financial support, grant and assistance in kind is provided to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : If there is a good crop, then it will end this for one year. Of cource, the impact would still be there because of the level of poverty in Orissa and also due to the fact that the farmers are debt ridden. How to tackle this problem?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow me for some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken twelve minutes.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am only giving the suggestions. So far as the workforce is concerned, every year, some people go out of the State during this period. But because of this unprecedented drought situation this year, people in a very large number have gone out. Normally, our State Government generally expects that all these people would find some sort of employment in the process of this agricultural operations. But this year, in such a situation, a larger number of people have gone out. So, we have to start this employment programme and different labour-oriented schemes on a very large scale. Sixty-four blocks are yet to be covered by the Employment Assurance Scheme. This is the minimum that could be done without any difficulty by the Government of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude in one minute.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am speaking point-wise. Please give me five minutes.

Fortunately, there are large minor irrigation tanks in all these areas. But the tanks need to be renovated. The poverty alleviation programme has to be further strengthened.

19.00 hrs.

The Drought Prone Area Development Programme should be implemented. Of course, this year there is one silver lining. By and large, excluding Orissa, everywhere else there is a bumper crop. So, there is no shortage of foodgrains. Water pipes and hand-pumps will not help. There must be tubewells. Government of India is spending money on piped water supply which should be made liberal.

As regards permanent measures like irrigation projects, there are some on-going projects which have to be completed. I need not name them. Shri K.P. Singh Deoji has ably done that.

Regarding modernisation and expansion of the Hirakud delta system, there are three new projects, the names of which are also given by Shri Bhakta Charan Dasji. The names of other projects are also given.

There is a huge amount of water compounded the by Sambal barrage from the river Rangali, but there is no canal system.

All these things have to be done on a priority basis.

The Government of Orissa has a programme to dig 8,000 tubewells this year. In addition to replacement of 2,000 defunct wells, another 10,000 wells have to be dug. Besides this, 5,000 tubewells should be there from this year under the drought scheme.

We have 30 districts and about 345 blocks and 10,000 allied points. During the British Raj in 1866, there was the ill-reputed Nanka famine. But that has also its contribution to the progress and prosperity thereafter because due to that famine, the alien British Government took up some irrigation project that year. That is how the Taldanda and Kendrapara systems had come into existence. But this year we are suffering. Let it have a permanent contribution to our future growth in the field of irrigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time now is seven o'clock. I have to extend the time. Please take your seat first. I will allow you to conclude. Is it the desire of the House that the time of the discussion be extended by another one hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House is extended by one hour for the discussion. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi will conclude in one minute.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We have 345 blocks. At the rate of 30 per block, it can be somewhere around 10,000 allied points. Regarding farmers, they are really the worsthit by drought.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not explain the condition of the farmers. Make a suggestion and conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : About the plight of the farmers, they cannot go to the field to work. We can give some benefit to small and marginal farmers.

As regards loan waiver, it has to be sympathetically considered. A concession of Rs. 1,250/- per hectare is being given to farmers in Andhra Pradesh who are hit by cyclone. A similar concession should also be extended to the drought-hit areas in Orissa. At present, such concession is not in existence in Orissa towards crop insurance.

If you see it, in real terms, it is not in existence. Because of the cooperative movement and because of the poverty of the farmers, that is nowhere to be seen there. The Crop Insurance Scheme, which is intended to give benefits to farmers in such a situation, is not in existence, unfortunately, by and large, in Orissa. It should be implemented. We have to arrange this.

Finally, I end my speech. As you know, what is the objective of our Plan in our democratic India? It is growth with social justice to fight the existing regional imbalances. About the CRF, I do not understand the wisdom of the Ninth Finance Commission ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)..

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : About CRF for Orissa, it is Rs. 46 crore and for some other States it is much more. Regarding the situation in Orissa, it is above the natural calamity. How could it be so low? Therefore, we have to have a fresh look at the recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please resume your seat? What you are saying is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We have to give them higher allocation under irrigation etc. Sir, I covered all these points. I had to say so many things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with the Chair. It cannot go on like this.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I conclude now with a request. Please look at the situation in Orissa. A sum of Rs. 50 crore has been given by the Prime Minister from his Relief Fund...*(Interruptions)* The Orissa Government, in its White Paper, has expressed its gratitude. Please see the attitude. Naturally we are simple people, peace-loving people and libral people. We have been accustomed to live with poverty, with natural calamity. But today, I am grateful that Members from different parties, from different States have come forward to treat Orissa as a special case not only to fight out today's drought situation but to see that such a situation does not arise, does not recur in future also in respect of Orissa. If there is a balanced growth for all the regions of our country, that would help very much.

So, with these words, I conclude. I thank you for giving me the time. In spite of several warnings, you have given me the time to speak. I am thankful to you. My appeal to Shri Chaturanan Mishra and also to the hon. Prime Minister is that they should be very very sympathetic and treat Orissa as a special case. It really needs a very special dispensation. That way, together with the help of the officials, non-officials, the NGOs and also the foreign agencies from outside, we can meet the situation. They have expressed their desire to help. The other day, the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sharad Pawar was expressing his views. He also said that we can do something ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please conclude?

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* Not Recorded.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : With proper coordination at the highest level, at the Prime Minister's level and at the Cabinet level as also with proper monitoring, we will be able to fight this situation. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please resume your seat? Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am very sorry to say one thing. Please do not compel the Chair to take unpleasant decisions. Now, there are 13 more speakers to participate in this debate. It is a State subject. It is a very serious matter and the Chair wants to allow Members maximum time to speak. But a senior Member, Shri Panigrahi has taken 22 minutes. Whatever you want to present, please present it in the briefest possible time. Shri Panigrahi, it is very unfortunate. When a Member takes more time, he is encroaching on the time of other Members. Kindly understand this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Please appreciate our problems. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want any discussion. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We are prepared to sit late. The whole House is prepared to sit late. Why are you adding to our agony? We have a lot of agony. We have a lot of pains.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How do you expect 13 Members to speak in this fashion? Please do not argue with the Chair like this. You are a senior Member.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am only doing my duty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not your duty. Shri Panigrahi, I warn you. I am strictly going to control the time in the interests of the House and in the interests of the discussion.

Now, Shri Pramothes Mukherjee to speak.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to express my views on this important aspect of natural calamity as found in the drough-effected western parts of Orissa. I have heard many valuable speeches on the same subject. But words cannot determine the fate of the people badly affected by drought. Only deeds can determine the change of fate of the people affected by drought.

At the outset, I would urge upon the Agriculture Minister and the Government of India to publish a White Paper on the drought situation in the KBK districts in the western parts of Orissa.

Sir, development is a continuous process and that is an upward process. Similarly, decadence is also a continuous process and that is a downward process. This downward process in respect of decadence of the KBK districts in the Western part of Orissa was a scene during the British period and is still a scene which is continuing after the Independence.

On bahalf of my party RSP, I rise to place it on record that the drought situation as prevailing in the KBK districts of Western part of Orissa is a direct outcome of the failure of the Government in tackling the situation during the last fifty years. It is the indifference of the Central Government and it is the neglect of the State Government of Orissa which are jointly responsible for the creation of such a painful situation. It is painful on my part to mention that Kalahandi today is a black spot of hunger and starvation death in the map of India. Kalahandi and Bolangir both are the twin sisters of miseries and sufferings in Orissa and in the broader sense, the whole of India. The people of KBK districts today have become the victims of the circumstances arising out of the drought. No doubt, drought is primarily responsible for this situation. Inadequate rainfall or uneven rainfall may be the first reason of drought, may be the first reason of the situation prevailing in Orissa. But it is my opinion that the uneven development of capitalism during the British period or the uneven investment of capital during the period after Independence is the reason for the sickness, for the decadence of this part in Orissa. Deforestation or the felling of trees is the important factor contributing to add poison to the patient. But the most important factor, according to me, is the failure of the Government to tackle the situation. This Government could not apply their mind, could not apply their heart and could not apply their conscious efforts to combat the situation for the last fifty years. This is a fact. There is a situation which is a very horrible situation. We know that the Government could not make necessary arrangement for the supply of drinking water even today and the Government could not make necessary arrangement for the construction of reservoir for the development of irrigation system of that area. We know all these things. May I remind you one thing? In pre-Independence era of our country, we saw that there was a royal family which built the three reservoirs atop three hills. That was an arrangement made for water. But reservoirs are not well maintained even today. The Government could not construct reservoir for bathing purpose, for drinking purpose or for irrigation purpose. Only 35 per cent of the land is worthy of irrigation, good for irrigation and the 65 per cent of the total cultivable land is deprived of irrigation system. It is amazing, it is astonishing that we are living in the age of science and technology and we could not utilise the resources or the advancement of technology for the purpose of irrigation system or for the purpose of drinking water supply.

Here is the failure of the Government. It is amazing today to remind all these things. Many things have been mentioned. I do not want to repeat all these things. It has a result. What do we see? We see the plight of the people and we see the migration of the people. The migration is the problem today. A horrible picture I see.

Sir, in this regard, with your kind permission, I would quote some lines taken from the survey report appeared in 'The Times of India'. It says:

> "Rows of deserted houses, a handful of pot-bellied children, a few emaciated women and a couple of old persons bear mute testimony to the range wrought by prolonged drought in this village.
>
> Unprecedented drought has forced over 70 per cent of the residents of this village to migrate to other States in search of food and work..

Sir, they are searching for their bread outside their villages. Majority of the working class of that village have left their huts and homes. They have deserted their villages and they have migrated either to Banaras or Allahabad or in many parts of UP, Gujarat and Punjab in search of food.

Sir, this is the picture, and we know it very well. Many speakers have already told that Orissa is rich in minerals. It is not only rich in minerals, it is rich in culture, it is rich in its heredity, it is rich in its glory and it has a sublime place in history. But today due to the failure of the Government for tackling the situation, the entire area has turned into a kingdom of silence. This looks like a desert today. That is the irony of fate of the people of the KBK districts and people of Orissa after 50 years of Independence.

So, I urge upon the Government to include all the viable projects into the Ninth Plan Period. And also, the Planning Commission should be made to formulate the schemes to be completed within a legitimate period. For this purpose, I would have a single-line suggestion for you. That is, the State Government should be advised and the test relief works should be started immediately. Though, it comes under the States subject yet the State Government should be advised to resume test relief works. Only through the test relief works, reservoirs can be constructed. Secondly, tubewells should be supplied for the drinking purposes. Thirdly, deforestation should be stopped, felling of trees can never be allowed. Fourthly, proper impetus should be given for the development and rejuvenation of the small-scale industries and cottage industries. This is for the benefit of the people of Orissa, who are thirsty.

Sir, I will not take much of your time. I would conclude by this sentence. The message should go to the people of India that there will be no Kalahandi again under the regime of the United Front Government.

19.19 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is going on in this House on the situation caused by drought in Kalahandi district of Orissa. I agree with the views of the the hon'ble members of this House and the members of Bhartiya Janata Party. Today the whole issue of the situation caused by drought in Kalahandi district is being discussed here. Bundelkhand region consist of such 21-22 districts of U.P. and M.P. I would like to say only one thing about Bundelkhand region in this House that people have to drink germful and dirty water by filtering it during the period of five months in a year. Four months of a year are such when 10-12 lakhs people of 21 districts live only on forest 'Ber' and 'Mehua'. There is no industry in that area. There is no arrangement of drinking water. The Agricultural land has become deserted. For the last 45 years the land could not be utilised for agriculture. I would like to urge upon the Minister of agriculture that this is such a region consisting of 21 districts from where the Union Government earns money by exploiting minerals. There is no High School within 60-70 kilometres area. There is no provision for girls education. Inspite of availability of various sources of water for irrigation, provision has not been made to supply the water to the fields. Such arrangement should be made in order to have agriculture production so that starvation problem of that area could be solved. So far as medical facility is concerned, there is no Government Hospital in area of 40-45 kilometres and if there is a hospital in a place then there is no doctor.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here. I would like to urge upon him and request all the hon'ble Members of House that whenever you want to chalk out some programmes in order to root out the problem of Kalahandi, you will have to consider the condition of that region consisting of 21 districts of U.P. and M.P. to ensure as to whether there is any disparity between that area and other areas. If there is disparity the Government should provide funds keeping in view the worst condition of that area in order to solve the problem of starvation of the people and to provide some employment to them. So industries should be set up there.

I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and expect that he will mention these points in his speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Agriculture Minister will not be available tomorrow to give reply because he will be in the Rajya Sabha. So he also would like to intervene today itself. At 7.30 p.m. the Agriculture Minister will intervene. Before that Shri Sarat Pattanayak may conclude his speech.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : I want ten to fifteen minutes, not more than that. I will finish in ten to fifteen minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can go on up to 7.30 p.m.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Sir, we have also given our names.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, your names are there. You will be allowed to speak. Please wait, all the Members who want to speak will get their chance today.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Mr. Chairman Sir, I must appreciate and congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, the Agriculture Minister and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who have visited the most backward districts of Orissa. The hon. Prime Minister in Bhalumunda of Bolangir district announced Rs. 50 crore for the drought prone areas of Orissa and two more major irrigation projects, Indira and Lower Suktel in Bolangir district.

Previously, our former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had declared to adopt Bolangir in the Central assistance scheme when he had visited Titlargarh of Bolangir district. This time the Bolangir district will get the Central assistance.

Unfortunately, he died before the elections and we the people of Bolangir district could not get anything from that time.

In the Tenth Lok Sabha, I raised, from time to time, the matter regarding the precarious situation of Bolangir constituency, that is Bolangir and Naupara. The then hon. Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao also visited that area. Previously, Kalahandi and Koraput districts were getting Central assistance but not Bolangir. Thus, the former Prime Minister included Bolangir district and made the proposal called the KBK project. He had declared that Rs. 4500 crore would be granted over ten years.

The history of drought is not new to Orissa. From the 1886 famine till date, Bolangir Kalahandi and Koraput districts have been constantly affected.

Recently when our hon. Prime Minister visited Rome for the World Food Summit, he made a speech there and appealed against hunger and starvation. Nature has given enough resources to Orissa, especially to Bolangir. But due to man-made poverty, drought continues drought in Bolangir and in the western parts of Orissa. The rivers there are the Mahanadi, the Tel, the Ong, the Rahul, the Suktel, the Songarh, the Lanth, the Under, the Mayabati and the Subarnarekha. Ten to fifteen rivers are there in Bolangir district but unfortunately we are not getting any irrigation facility. I think, in Bolangir constituency, we are creating only six per cent irrigation potential. This is the lowest irrigation production in Orissa, according to my knowledge.

There are 1956 villages in Bolangir and Naupara districts; 274 panchayats are there. Till date, we have not provided drinking water to all the villages. We depend on the ponds. If you go to a village and search for a glass of water from a pond, you cannot get it. In the last five years, I have covered all the panchayats from time to time.

I feel the tragedy of the people there. We should not play any politics in this drought situation. I appreciate that the hon. Minister has announced that he would request the Human Rights Commission to inquire into the deaths in the KBK area. But my appeal is this. They have already died and you are requesting the Human Rights Commission to go into it. But what would you do for the people of this area who are alive? Your first duty is to commit on this point in the House.

The next point is about rainfall. In the month of May, the normal rainfall is 27 mm but in Bolangir the rainfall received was only 2 mm.

I will make some suggestion in brief. My request is that we should get drinking water in all the 1956 villages. The hon. Minister has stated that they would send the digging machines and provide drinking water. In the hilly areas, the women are going up to four to five kilometres without even chappals for fetching drinking water. This is the situation in the area. We are deprived of all the facilities. We are not getting anything.

When I speak here, the Government will say that the State Government has not done anything. When I make a request to the State Government, they would say that the Central Government has not given anything. I do not want to interfere in this quarrel. On this humanitarian problem, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he should consider the suggestions which I make.

Sir, as far as health is concerned, my parliamentary constituency consists of 274 pachayats. It has only 5 CHCs and 29 PHCs and additional PHCs. Now, you can imagine what would be the condition of the children and the women in 274 panchayats, we have only five CHCs and 29 PHCs. Suppose a woman has to go for a delivery, she has to travel thirty to forty kilometres to consult a doctor and a child has to travel thirty to forty kilometres for consulting a doctor. This is the condition in the health sector.

Regarding drinking water, you know the position. My appeal would be not to play statistical jugglery regarding financial assistance to the State to tackle the drought. This time I, in consultation with the local administration, have prepared short term and long term measures for drought-proofing.

Regarding the irrigation project, already the Prime Minister has announced that he would include an irrigation project in the Five Year Plan. But my request this time is the hon. Prime Minister, hon Miniser of Water Resources and the Minister of Agriculture should go to Bolangir and lay the fundation stone if they are interested in doing something.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Madhbani) : The foundation stone can be laid but what will happen after that?

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : We are workers not leaders. That is why we are saying this. There is a saying that whosoever lay the foundation stone shall finish the work. This is the feeling of the people of that area. Threrefore the hon. Prime Minister should get this project of Rs. 450-500 crore completed after laying the foundation stone. We have urged for 1200 lift irrigation points. Lift irrigation points should be set up in all the rivers. Similarly, we have demanded for 2000 deep tubewells for irrigation work and 4000 tubewells for drinking water purpose. Hon'ble Chief Minister have introduced a scheme under which rice has been provided at the rate of Rs. 2 per K.G. in D.P.A.P. blocks. I am not criticising anyone. In my district there is only 6 percent irrigation capacity whereas it has been said that there is 20 to 25 percent irrigation capacity In the 6 districts, DPAP blocks could not be decided. 64 blocks in Orissa are yet to be declared as DPAP blocks. Recently the Minister of Rural Development has received a list in this regard. I request that the 6 blocks, which are to be declared under DPAP in my constituency should be declared. Those 64 blocks having 6 percent irrigation capacity should also be declared under DPAP. People are dying of hunger there. We have noticed that the area where DPAP blocks were to be declared, have not been declared yet.

Provision may be made to construct a pond or a tank in each village. Similarly, in every Panchayat water should be supplied through pipes with deep tubewell. Such proposals are pending in respect of Bolangir, Patangarh, Tiklargarh, Khazia Road etc. We have prepared a long term scheme to the tune of Rs One thousand crore for the whole Bolangir constituency. We are not saying that it should be completed within one year. As the former hon'ble Prime Minister had made a declaration to complete the scheme prepared at the cost of Rs. four thousand in different phases siilarly this scheme should be completed within five years Last year also we requested for the Satpal project. Shri Srikanta Jena was with us. A discussion was held with no result. The work of distribution of rice to farmers is being done. The condition of middle class farmer is very bad. They are not ready to carry work as a labourer. They are not in a condition to live a normal life in society. The middle class farmers should be provided loan amount of Rs. 10 thousand each and beside that if their loan amount of Rs. 10 to 15 thousand is waived, they will feel some relief. That previous loan of Rs. 15 thousand should be abolished and fresh loan of Rs. 10,000 should be given to them in order to save them because most of the people in my constituency are labourers. More than two lakh labourers have migrated from there to earn their livelihood as it has been told by the former hon'ble Prime Minister that every year more than two lakh people migrate from there in search of work. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take some drastic and positive steps in this regard to stop all this.

Same is the matter of student's fee. I would like to tell you that the people of Orissa do not have foodgrain to eat. In such a condition, how they will deposit the school and college fee? Therefore, I appeal that the tuition fee of students should be waived off.

Besides this, I have two points to raise; one is about lift irrigation and another is regarding deep bore well. One deep bore well costs Rs. one lakh. The Government is providing fifty per cent subsidy but wherefrom they will arrange the remaining fifty per cent amount in such a situation when they do not have foods to eat? It is right that the Government will provide job to the labourers. The Government is providing 50 per cent subsidy on the seeds for Rabi crop and on deep tubewell but wherefrom they will arrange rest of the expenditure? Therefore deep tubewell deep borewell and lift irrigation plan may be declared free for those farmer who want to avail this facility. Besides this, the Central Government should also make arrangement of water for the farmers. As so far the K.B.K. Scheme is concerned, the Collectors and Project Directors come here to get funds for this scheme. In this connection, I would like to submit that the funds under this scheme may be provided to them directly so that this scheme can be implemented properly. This is my suggestion. My last suggestion is that a co-ordination officer may be appointed to coordinate the scheme and arrangements be made for direct funding from the Centre. Besides this, a 'National Drought Relief Fund for Orissa' may be set up in P.M.O. so that the money deposited in this fund can be spent for drought affected people of Orissa. Therefore, my submission is that direct funding should be made to the districts from the Centre. I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Hon'ble Prime Minister and this august House to make a provision to ensure proper implementation of this scheme for which I have been raising my voice for the last five years. I would like to tell you that even after so much discussion, scheme is not being implemented. All partymen want to save their Government and they are concerned about that only. Some are concerned about religion and some are about caste factor but nobody is concerned about the poor people of the country who are facing starvation. This is not only the question of Bolangir or Orissa but it is a question of survival of people of the entire country. If need arises to seek assistance at international level for the cause of the people of Bolangir, Orissa and K.B.K., we are prepared to do it. But if the Government is not prepared or not in a position to give assistance for these people, we are ready to seek assistance for the people of Orissa at our level.

That is why, I am saying in this House that the concerned Minister should visit Orissa. People who have come from Punjab have become Minister here. But the

people of Orissa do not bother about religion or caste. they want only development. The demand of the people of Orissa is only for the two times meal. water and employment. Till today. the people of Orissa have been living with prestige and we are ready to do anything to save the prestige of Orissa. Therefore. I appeal to the Government that some provision should be made for the cause of the people-farmers and unemployed youths of Orissa. With these words. I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now. the hon. Minister of Agriculture will intervene. Before that. I would like to make a request. There are eight more speakers. If necessary, we may to extend for some more time because we have no time for discussion tomorrow. We may have to complete it today.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Chairman. Sir. I thank all the hon'ble members who have participated in this discussion...

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani) : And to those who will speak now?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Thanks is not given in advance. I. therefore whole heartedly thank these people. I am grateful to them as they have given valuable suggestions and those suggestions should be implemented. I assure you that I shall make efforts. This problem is not the problem of Orissa only. it is the problem of the whole nation. We have already mentioned it. The whole Nation should consider such problems seriously. You all know that I do not have Sectarian view. It is the Government of Congress. when you asked our reply was the same. We do not do such work. Clear picture of the case has been put before you. This problem cannot be dealth with by one or two parties. I take this problem in two parts. The first thing is that a parmanent solution of the problem is very necessary and I am very much concerned as to how this problem is to be solved. Science and Technology have developed so much that if we hear anyone dying of drought then it is very shameful for the humanity and the Government of that country. Cyclone is a different case because Science has not developed so much in this field but if adequate irrigation facility is provided then we can somehow minimise the problem of drought; The Government of India has taken some steps in this direction. Now the problem of famine is not so acute as it was sometime before. All this development has been made by ourselves. Whatever is going on is all because of shortsightedness and mistakes. It does not matter whether it is our Government or that of the other party. I am ready to own its responsibility. I want to make it clear that if in such a situation one dies then we have no right to speak.

Now I would like to concentrate on the present issue as to what should be done. Many suggestions have come. One suggestion has been made about family planning. If attention is paid now only on family planning. If attention is paid now only on family planning then when will you think of saving those who are already born. In this way we will be in loss. The old people. who suggest family planning. have already completed their quota and so far as youths are concerned they may be ready to accept family planning. At present. we shall not discuss all those issues. I. therefore. suggest you that a discussion should be held in the House under a Calling Attention Motion or otherwise for finding a permanent solution of this problem and to give concrete suggestions. It will help the Government to solve this problem. I shall tell you what is happening in the country at present. I am not an exception. Do not take it lightly. Whenever any incident takes place it becomes a news. Then the concerned Minister visits that area. conducts aerial survey and then gives his statement. After this the Government issue a memorandum and then the Central team visits the area and gives some money. Here you discuss about delay. It takes too much time and in the next year the same situation recurs. This is the tendency in our country. It should be checked. I. therefore, requested you to formulate a timebound programme. This is not so difficult task as some people say it will take 20 years or 30 years. I think it will take only five years to ensure supply of drinking water. There is no such great river which we can't tame. If money is needed, it can be arranged. This year Orissa is facing the problem of drought and famine. But last year 1/2 million ton of rice was provided to Orissa from Central quota vis-a-vis other states. This is the same Orissa.

[English]

Nothing is insurmountable.

[Translation]

There is no such crisis rather it has been created. As I have told you that I have been there with our hon'ble Minister. Your Government was that of the Congress Party. In presence of all it was felt that Rs. 216 crore is still with them which can be spent but that is not enough. We shall discuss it later on. Hon'ble Member were also present there.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : The State Government has mentioned Rs. 38 crore including Rs. 9 crore which you have recently given.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : They accepted Rs. 216 crore...

[Translation]

This amount includes everything. We have not told that this is too much, atleast minimum requirement has been fulfilled and now the work should be started. It is

a fact that they have just begun this work. We have already told the press that the administration is being geared up now which was not geared up before. We shall not go into the details of those reasons. Earlier the condition was so bad that newspapers used to be full of sad news and Government's report was not published...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, when they started this work there was no infrastructure...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Infrastructure is not sold in market. You were present there, therefore I must tell you how it was done. When the fund was ensured, we said that in the event of death of any person the D.M. will be held responsible. Thereafter we wrote a letter to the hon'ble Home Minister to inform it to his I.A.S. Officers so that action could be taken in case of any death...*(Interruptions)* As we know there are many people living in forest area and we are responsible for them also. The Government service is not a place of merry-making. We are here to work. People living in forests are just like us. We have taken strict action and you know it very well. You say that the Government have approached the Human Rights Commission in regard to the people who are dying. The Government deny starvation death whereas it is a fact that people are dying of starvation when we are there you say they are dying in large number but when we are present then not a single case comes to our notice. Is it right to play with the life of a person. We have, therefore, found a solution. If anyone dies due to starvation before us then we must feel sorry. Therefore, we have decided to give this responsibility to an impartial body like Human Rights Commission. No one can interfere in the decision of Human Rights Commissions and we shall inquire into it and draw the attention of the whole Nation towards it. I want to make it clear as to how much importance we give to this issue. A day before yesterday Minister of Cooperation and Development of Denmark came here who assured us for co-operation. They said that you select two states for us where we could spend 30-40 million dollar. We said that Orissa will be given first priority. But they have asked for the names of two states again. We have named Orissa as the first and the other name will be given later on. Presently we should not discuss the KBK programme because it will not be very favourable till the fund is guranteed and it is approved by the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Finance. This is not the right way that we commit for a particular thing and it is not implemented later on. You should not feel hurt...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Minister, please speak something about us also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have told you to speak separately but you have mixed the issues. It is not fair. If I were king I might have told you. Your suggestion will be received in my Secretariat and a report will be submitted. We shall enquire into it. You say that I sould comment upon it but presently, I am just a Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Simply tell us whether an action will be taken on this after investigation?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Please raise this issue in a proper manner. We are ready to help you that is why we have discussed this.

Just now we have told you about the funds. Shri Das has told about the breakdown of the administration. 129 doctors have been appointed. Inspite of their appointment only 9 doctors were ready to join. The Secretary has told that yet there are 10 such blocks where doctors have not joined. If they do not join this week then they will be suspended. We have enquired into the reasons why doctors have not gone there. It is seen that neither there are any facilities nor there is any school of good standard for their children. We have suggested that each district should be put under one Commissioner or an I.A.S. officer of Secretary level. We further told that he should stay there for 15 days. Later on it was decided that they will stay at least for five days. We have made arrangements at administrative level. Officers do not go there because there are a lot of problems.

Secondly, cerebral diseases have gripped the area. One D.M. and a DIG have died of cerebral malaria. One person has died of dengue. Dengue hit this area later, whereas it had already surfaced in Orissa. That is why officers do not want to go there. Therefore, we have asked the administration to provide some more facilities to them. Officials posted in North-East region are given 30 percent special North-East allowance...*(Interruptions)* That is why, I have talked about administrative measures.

So far as the crop insurance is concerned we have already forwarded a proposal to the Planning Comission and the Finance Ministry after seeking your opinions. If it is approved, it will bring down the number of charges of corruption and then there will be no need to come to the Minister with complaints...*(Interruptions)* It is only five per cent. But in Andhra Pradesh, it is 50 per cent. You know very well that our economy is backward. Now the farmers will get money automatically for their next crop. An hon. Member asked just now as to how would they manage for next crop? I would like to tell him that we will give them input allowances for the next crop. I have asked my Ministry to findout as to what could be done in the field of horticulture. We are ready to provide assistance for growing potato, onion or other vegetable in those areas where water is available so that people can engage themselves in that work. Moreover, it will also become an asset. Therefore, we are giving more emphasis on this front.

So far as employment is concerned, you are aware of the steps taken by us. As regards drinking water, we

have talked to private parties. They had asked for two months' time but we have told them to make arrangements within a month. You may speak a lot about stopping migration but if there is no water, peole will certainly migrate from there. That is why, we have asked them that water should be made available to every house within a month. As I had said during question hour, works will be started for making available water and fodder, growing Rabi crop and creating employment for those who work in the fields. But the matter of concern is that there are some women who remain confined to their houses and do not go outside. The 'Million Wells' programme has been implemented for those living below poverty line. It will be implemented for all in a drought condition so that farmers face no difficulty in working in their fields. We are contemplating some steps in this direction. However, the hon'ble Prime Minister will throw more light on it. I am only telling the ground facts.

Today morning, we had a meeting with the leaders of all trade unions of the country. They were asked to contribute one day's wage to the Relief Fund. The representatives of employers and workers have taken a decision that they would contribute one day's wage to the relief fund by way of working one day extra or getting one day's leave adjusted.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Please get it implemented in Parliament also.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It has already been done in Parliament. All the parties have agreed to it.

I got a news today morning on phone. As I had said yesterday in the House, the Shankaracharya of Kanchipuram Peeth has reached Andhra Pradesh with three trucks load of relief material. Today, I talked on telephone to the Junior Shankaracharya and told him to follow suit. He is also making arrangements in this regard. There are many saints to go to Ayodhya. You should request them to go to Andhra Pradesh instead of Ayodhya and do something there. It will make our task easy...*(interruptions)* I am not saying so to hurt the sentiments of anybody. It is a national calamity. Therefore, all of us should contribute to relief works.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : The hon'ble Minister may not have said so to hurt one's sentiment but his utterance was sarcastical. We all supported him. It is not an issue of party politics ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit humbly that these things should be clubbed with this issue. If you are conscious of your duty, you should make a nationwide appeal. Even if you do not get a response, then you ask us.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am just making an appeal. If one Shankaracharya is doing, why other shankaracharyas are not doing so? What else is it if not an appeal?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : It should not have been mentioned here that there were many saints prepared to go to Ayodhya...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : There are many people in Ayodhya.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Being a Minister, you should make an appeal to them and you will get a lot.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : This is what we want. At least, half of them should come forward. We are starting some programmes of similar kind. Some suggestions were given here. It has been said that direct funds should be arranged but it is not possible as per the provisions of the constitution.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : You should change this system. Leaders of all political parties should talk to the Speaker in this regard. Unless this system is changed, no further work can be taken up.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is not under the jurisdiction of the Speaker.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : It can be passed with 2/3 majority in the House.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It can not be passed by the House.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Who can do it?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Our constitution is of federal nature. States have been given powers separately in the constitution. It is not possible to by-pass the states. After getting their consent ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : It can be done after getting the consent of the State Government. You know that how much fund have been diverted.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We know it is diverted but we cannot do that. You create an uproar in the Lok Sabha as well as in the legislative assembly but we will have to abide by the provisions of the constitution. Therefore, nobody can bypass the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please avoid cross-talk.

Mr. Minister, how much more time do you want?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am just concluding.

[Translation]

Here, a demand has been made to take permanent measures. We will try to do it, but I would like to say one thing that we have tried to find a permanent solution to the projects which we have started.

20.00 hrs.

We should avoid spending money in piece-meal and for what, we seek your co-operation. All of you should go there and check-up yourselves there. We are ready to give assistance in every possible manner. I reiterate though the hon'ble Prime Minister will say himself that nobody would be allowed to die due to lack of funds. I h::mbly request you to make united efforts for that.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : I have to ask a question from the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Das, before you put your question, let us decide about the extension of time. Now the time is 8 o'clock and there are seven more speakers. What shall we do now Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): We can accommodate another half an hour today, Sir.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : We can continue with it tomorrow.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Tomorrow is Private Member's day.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : What is the problem if we sit for another half an hour. If you think that this is a national issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not say that. They have been cooperating. He is not a speaker but he has been sitting here. This kind of discussion will not help us.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : I am not participating in the debate. I am sitting here without speaking on it. You can know my feelings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dronaji, if you all agree, we will extend the sitting for another half an hour and we can complete the debate on this important and sensitive subject. All the speakers will stick to the time limit of five minutes. We may not get time tomorrow as it is a Private Member's day.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Okay, Sir.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : I am putting these questions to the hon. Agriculture Minister now because he will not be available tomorrow. In my speech yesterday I mentioned about supplying two-rupees-a-kilo rice in the drought affected area. I would like to know whether on behalf of the Central Government the hon. Minister of Agriculture is going to appeal to the Government of Orissa to provide two-rupees-a-kilo rice to the people of the worst affected areas...*(Interruptions)*... The Government of India should make an appeal or provide assistance to the Government of Orissa...*(Interruptions)* Even in the declared blocks they are not supplying two-rupees-a-kilo rice. In Kalahandi there are 10 PDS blocks...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question is clear, Mr. Minister, there is a specific question.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : I would also like to know what he is going to do for the middle class people.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : As I have already said, if middle class people want to do work, they can do work in the fields under Million Wells Scheme.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : But what about the provision pertaining to per hectare?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Though, I have already told about that, yet the hon'ble Prime Minister will also speak about it. The decision to provide rice two rupees per k.g. is under the State subject. What can we say to them? They will implement their scheme.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There are two types of States - one which have income above the national average and others, which have much below general average national income where 40 per cent people live below poverty line. Further, the issues of all re-adjustments, C.R.F., loan clearance and assistance should also be considered.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have told in my reply that by doing so, all the states will stand to the position where they stood five years back. There is no alternative.

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the Agriculture Minister on the question of staff in the tribal and rural areas. He said that due to want of prospects and some other reasons they are not going there. During the Sixth and Seventh Plan periods, there was an incentive allowance to the officers posted in the sheduled or tribal areas. But now this has been stopped. Will the hon. Minister take up this matter with the Government? When doctors and BDOs are not going there to work in connection with the drought relief, how can one go on with this drought relief work?

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I will convey his request to the concerned Ministers. I cannot take responsibility of all the Ministries.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Please, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get time tomorrow. The Prime Minister is replying.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : It is his matter, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already said. You have put two questions and he has replied it back.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : One question, please.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask the Prime Minister tomorrow.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : The Prime Minister cannot reply me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get time tomorrow. Shri Bhakta Charan Das, please accommodate. Let other Members also speak. You can ask the Prime Minister, he is replying at two o'clock tomorrow.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the last.

The event of people dying of starvation is a matter so appealing to our conscience that we cannot excuse anybody in power, who could stop the deaths had he tried his level best. The loss of lives due to hunger in Kalahandi, Koraput and Bolangir is not new to us. For some time past, we have been used to hearing of such calamitous news. Who are responsible for such ignominious deaths? While there was a huge food stock at the national level and much of such food stock was misused by rats and others, while our brothers and sisters died the deaths of hunger and thirst. This is very said. So, at the outset, I demand that the food stock be let open to those who are affected by drought in Orissa. It is a matter of regret that the State Government have not drawn the attention of the nation to the matter as forcefully as it is required.

I do not like to consume much time. Time is short. I wish to record some suggestions. I hope that the Central Government will take into consideration while making efforts to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people.

My first suggestion is that there should be two types of measures, one is the long time measures and the the other one is the short term measures. First, I suggest the short term measures. The situation has to be studied meticulously as regards the damage of crops already done and likely to be done in the coming months. It is reported that the Western part of Orissa including Kalahandi, Bolangir, Naupada, Sambalpur and Sonepur have been severely affected. Adivasi people are concentrated in these districts.

My second suggestion is that it is estimated that 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been damaged due to drought. The State Government is reported to have planned to produce 17 lakhs tonnes of foograins in Rabi in the coming months. Then, ten to 12 lakh tonnes of food grains will be required. I hope that the Central Government will be in a position to supply this deficit food.

My next suggestion is that the irrigation facilities have to be provided to the farmers for Rabi crop production.

Subsidies have to be provided for seeds. Subsidies have also to be provided for fertilisers at cheaper rates.

It has been estimated that a total sum of Rs. 3.79 crore is required for the purpose. Here the Central Government may come forward to provide help to the State Government because of the fact that State Governments are suffering from paucity of funds. My next suggestion is because of drought the daily wage earners have been worst hit. They will not get employment. So the Central Government and the State Government have to work jointly to make money available to the wage earners by way of arranging employment opportunities through different yojanas and employment assurance schemes.

It appears that in Orissa about 41 lakh families live below the poverty line. Of those families, about 13 lakh people will be out of employment due to such national calamity. Hence provision has to be made for 13 lakh people's works for seven months from December 1996 to June 1997 and only Rs. 462 crore will be needed to provide jobs to 13 lakh people.

As far as drinking water is concerned, drought has affected not only the wage earners and poor farmers, but the middle and rich farmers also. All these people will feel dearth of water. Underground water may be exploited but that too will cause damage to total environment detrimental to the human beings of all kinds. So, rivers have to be carefully protected so that drinking water may not be of dearth in the near future.

Different types of diseases will break-out. The State Government should be ready to tackle the situation. In such eventualities the Central Government must provide the medical teams to the State, if necessary.

Regarding food shortage, I suggest that the Food Corporation of India should be directed to make food storage in the State in sufficient quantity to assure the people that they need not panic and that in need they will be provided with food. In reality they should be provided with food.

I would like to give some suggestions for the permanent solution of this problem. Land reform measures have to be adopted promptly. The distribution of land to the landless poor is necessary. It will enable them to cultivable their plots of lands in various ways matching the vagaries of monsoon.

Waste Land Development Projects have to be undertaken. In such events the poor landless people have to be got involved. They should be provided with land as well as loans for cultivation in drought days.

The Adivasis who have left their habitats should be rehabilitated. They should be helped through Indira Awas Yojana. They should be supplied with food at low costs through Public Distribution Scheme.

Afforestation programmes should be carefully implemented. The poor Advasis should be given share in the Afforestation Programmes.

Small scale industries should be set up. Marketing facilities are to be provided there. Men having commitment to social services should be entrusted such works.

The pending river projects, such as Indira and Suktel must be expedited and completed in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

I am concluding by saying that the old age pension scheme should be worked out in such a fashion that the real poor old men should be identified. As there is no elected Panchayat, the identification problem will be critical. Hence, the old age pension work should be properly done. For this purpose Panchayats should be formed.

The question of giving some dole to a State like Orissa in the midst of certain calamities should not be looked as any benevolence on the part of the Centre. But we should bear in mind that every State has its right to get the necessary help from the Centre as a matter of right and not benevolence. That is why we have been clamouring for the Constitutional amendment in the light of the Sarkaria Commission to readjust the Centre-State relations.

*KUMARI FAIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh) : Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the drought situation in Orissa and elsewhere in the country. The memebers who preceded me have already given a detailed description of the gravity of situation in Orissa due to the unprecedented drought prevailed in that State. I do not wish to repeat those points. I would only like to confine my speech to the problems of my constituency arising out of the prevailing drought of severe nature. I would like to highlight the need of my people of Sundargarh district.

Sir, it is really very sad that the entire State of Orissa is reeling under the grip of severe drought as the information submitted by the District Collectors on the basis of the first crop cutting report. Accordingly, only 12 districts were affected by drought. Subsequently, the situation further aggravated and now the entire State is affected. The State Government of Orissa has submitted a Memorandum to the Central Government for providing Rs. 585.00 crores to undertake drought relief measures in that State. I demand that the fund required by the State Government should be sanctioned immediately.

Due to the deficiency of rainfall and severe dry spell prevailing in the State, shortage of drinking water has been felt in several districts. The scarcity of drinking water may be felt in more areas in the coming months. The State Government has installed 8000 tube wells and 2000 old, outdated and defunct tube wells have also been replaced with new tube wells.

Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

Sir, I come from Sundargarh district in Orissa. This year the kharif crops sustained heavy loss due to scanty rainfall in that district from the beginning of the year. So, the people in that district will need more food grains than what they are getting from the fair price shops. As such, I request the Central Government to expand the public distribution network in Orissa. Allocation of wheat and rice may be enhanced for the people of Sundargarh. The State Government of Orissa has appealed to the Central Government to enhance wheat and rice allocation and to release 50000 metric tonnes to that State. I demand that the wheat and rice allocation may be enhanced to Orissa as demanded by the State Government.

Sir, the farmers of Sundargarh depend on rain water for cultivation. They do not become able to grow any crop when there is no rain. This is so as there is absence of irrigation facility in that district. So it is very necessary to install adequate number of deep bore wells and dug wells in every village so that the farmers can cultivate their land and grow some crop or the other. I demand special Central assistance for this purpose.

As I stated earlier, the harvest of kharif crops this year is almost nil in several districts including Sundargarh. The people who were engaged in cultivation are sitting idle at home. That is why a large scale migration has taken place. People are migrating to neighbouring States in search of job. So, it is our first and foremost duty to bring them backhome. They are not safe at the hands of their employers in those States as they are bring exploited by them as well as the middlemen. At the same time we have to take steps to stop any further migration. This is possible if adequate employment opportunity is generated for them. In the meantime, the State Government of Orissa has taken initiative to provide work to 12.33 lakh agricultural workers in the drought affected districts for eight months w.e.f. November this year to June, 1997. The State Government has made an estimate of Rs. 1971 crores to undertake this programme. The Central Government should immediately sanction and release this amount to the State Government to bear this expenditure to implement the above programme.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not make a mention of Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput programme better known as KBK. The undivided Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput districts are always affected by droughts. Our former Congress Government had drawn up a special plan known as KBK for the all round development of drought prone Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts. Fund provision has already been made for that programme but it is regrettable that the present Government has discontinued that programme on the pretext of constraint of resources. As you know, this is a perennial problem in those drought affected districts. As the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao stated in his speech, the situation in those areas cannot

be improved unless a special scheme is implemented for them. Since it is a question of life and death for those lakhs of people I request the Central Government to include KBK programme in the 9th Plan and adequate amount of fund should be earmarked for the purpose

Lastly, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion and conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Virendra Kumar Singh - Not present.

Kumari Sushila Tiriya - Not present.

Now, I call upon Shri Anadi Charan Sahu to speak.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my first speech in the House. I would have been much jubilant but because of the grim situation of drought in my State my jubilation is drained out. Drought visits Orissa intermittently sometimes periodically but always mercilessly. It has visited a number of tims and we have faced many difficulties. I would not dilate on the situation that has been prevailing in my State. The previous speakers, particularly Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Shri K.P. Singh Deo and Shri Sriballav Panigrahi have elucidated the points. What I would like to say is that drought has crippled the State in many ways.

I, being a former policeman, would like to speak on two aspects only. One is about the distress situation that is prevailing and the distress management that is required and the second is about the contingency plan that is required. Before I speak about the distress management, I must thank the hon. Minister of Agriculture who has been very generous but not bountiful. I request him through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that his bounty should know no bounds in the near future. That is my earnest request on behalf of the people of Orissa.

So far as distress management is concerned, the State Government has already started the work from September onwards. You must have seen from the speeches of other people and then of the Minister of Agriculture also that the distress management had started in September. We are very happy to note and state here in the House that the State Government had started a mid-day meal programme for the school students much earlier. The State Govt. has started distributing subsidised rice in 143 blocks. It has started distress distribution of food to about 44,000 people in the KBK districts because of the drought situation prevailing. These are the main reasons for which there has been no death due to hunger in spite of difficulties that the State has been facing.

But for distress management, many aspects have to be taken into account. The first thing for drought, the antidote of drought is water. You may kindly appreciate that in five urban areas of Bolangir and Kalahandi Districts water is being supplied to the people by tankers. Unless more number of tankers are pressed into service, it would not be possible to give potable water to them. If potable drinking water is not available, the consequence will be water-borne disease and one would be required to do a lot of health services. There will be health hazards. So I would request you to ensure supply of water which is the first thing to do in distress situations. Surface water is no available in all the 26 districts. In my district, Cuttack which I represent, although there is 42 per cent of irrigation land, we are not getting adequate water. So for getting water, surface water is not sufficient. The immediate task is to dig deep bore tube wells. The Government of India should come forward with adequate funds and engage as many manpower possible to give them sufficient work.

So far as the distress condition is concerned, mass exodus will start by the middle of December. Now some people have started migrating. Distress migration has started in a very few pockets but mass migration or exodus will start by the middle of December because the agricultural labour will not get sufficient work in the drought-affected areas. There is no crop hence no work. So they will try to go out. Therefore, my request would be that some sort of labour intensive work may be taken up throughout the State.

It has been indicated earlier and I tried to point out to the Minister of Railways earlier also that there are many railway projects. A project worth Rs. 50 crore is pending for the Rupsa-Bangri Poshi line. The Government have already sanctioned the funds but the work order has not been issued. If that amount of Rs. 50 crore is released now for the broadening of Rupsa- Bangri Poshi railway line, this will bring a lot of work. Then there is doubling of rail road from Cuttack to Talcher. It is progressing in a haphazard manner. Doubling of Paradip-Cuttack railway line is also going in a haphazard manner. If these are taken up immediately this will generate a lot of work for the people so that migration to other areas will not be there. They can get confined to the areas of work. I will not dilate much because my time is very short.

I will come to the contingency plan. So far as the contingency plan is concerned, the Government of Orissa had sent a very good elaborate plan which is the long-term action plan for the KBK districts.

It could be a model for taking up any contingency work. Now, as far as irrigation is concerned, I reiterate that the anti-date of drought is water. For irrigation purposes—minor and medium irrigation - water harvesting systems are absolutely necessary. Then, we have to take into account the health hazard problems

that are coming up. Preventive and curative work for the health of the people is absolutely necessary. So, in the contingency plan, health hazard problems are as important as water supply.

Then, there is a most important and very minor point which may be to convert the short-term loans to long-term loans so that it would alleviate the difficulties of the farmers. The middle class farmer has to be thought of. But while thinking of the middle class farmer, it is to be thought of that the lift irrigation points and the debts and loans.

In my constituency I have seen that in the Mahanadi river a number of "chuas and challas" have been dug up for storage of water. This has created a problem for the stream which has been diverted. Due to the diversion of the stream, the existing lift irrigation points have become defunct. There is a necessity for having large number of lift irrigation points in those areas. Ordinarily, lift irrigation points are being utilised by the middle class farmers. New lift irrigation points on the Mahanadi delta will help the middle class farmers.

I do not want to dilate much at the present moment.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI KARTIK MOHAPATRA (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as so many senior Members have discussed this matter seriously, I do not want to repeat the same. But I have some concrete suggestions to make to the Government.

(1) According to the Report of the Collectors, in 26 Districts out of 30 Districts from Kalahandi, Bolangir to Balasore and Mayurbhanj, covering 3517 Gram Panchayats, more than two crore people are affected. I request the Central Government to treat this drought situation as a national calamity and the memorandum submitted by the State Government, which is a programme to tackle this situation, amounting to a sum of Rs. 577 crore, may be accepted *in toto* by the Central Government and necessary funds in a phased manner may kindly be released.

(2) The Agriculture Department should come forward to release funds for restoration of new L.I. points and to reinstall the defunct 3000 L.I. points in Orissa. It is a very vital thing.

(3) New irrigation projects should be identified in the drought affected areas and these projects should be taken up for future drought conditions and to create mandays for the wage earners.

(4) Now, drinking water is a serious problem in Orissa in rural as well as in urban areas. The water level has lowered like anything. The Rural and Urban Development Departments should come forward to sanction more tubewells and new water supply schemes in urban as well as in rural areas. The current loans of small and marginal farmers, who have lost their everything in Kalahandi, Bolangir to Balasore and Mayurbhanj, should be exempted from paying the same and the Government should come to their rescue.

(5) As labour intensive work is barely necessary to check the migrants, the Rural Development Department and the Agriculture Department should release sufficient funds of Gram Panchayats for the coming six months.

For the coming Rabi crop, as the electricity will play a vital role, so the GRIDCO in Orissa should be strengthened by funding more funds to it for the upgradation of transformers and for the construction of new lines through the allied projects.

Sixthly, grants may be released to open free kitchens in each Gram Panchayat to save the lives of orphans, destitute, disabled and old persons and those who have no alternative to save their lives. I hope this august House will consider these suggestions seriously to save Orissa from the present crisis. Thank you.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak. I have been hearing and reading in the newspapers about the drought in Orissa. We should really be very much concerned about it and we should do the needful and something concrete there.

The hon. Minister has already given a lot of assurance. As my friend Shri Singh Deo has brough out and as the former Prime Minister has brought out, these things should be implemented and something should be done on the ground.

I am also taking a chance to speak about my area. As you know, Sir, I hail from Western Rajasthan, that is, Jaisalmer-Barmer. That area has been a drought-prone, not since decades but for centuries together. I wish the hon. Agriculture Minister was here. In fact, when he was going out, I requested him to be here for some more time. Anyway, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here and I request him to convey my sentiments to him, otherwise I shall feel sorry and the people of my area will feel sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to the point please. It will be conveyed.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Anyway, the Secretary to the Ministry is there and I hope he will convey my sentiments to the Minister.

In my constituency, two districts completely, that is, Jaisalmer and Barmer, and one segment of Jodhpur, consist of a total of fourteen blocks. Out of these 14 blocks, two blocks have had reasonable rains, four have had partial rains and eight are having total drought. There is no rainfall in those blocks. These blocks are : Chohattan, Sam, Shiv, Gudhamalani, Pokaran, Barmer, Pachpadra and Jaisalmer. They are facing a lot of

problems. Their problems are three-fold. The first is because of the crop. At some places there was a little rain. In fact there were two rains with a gap of one month and now they are not getting any rain. So, there is no crop at all. Of course, we are getting the grains from outside but recently there was some problem in getting wheat and other grains. But the FCI came to our rescue and we feel that there should not be any shortage because the stocks in the country are very encouraging. I hope, the Government will take some action to send the grains to us.

The second problem, which is a very serious problem, is about water. As in Orissa, in Western Rajasthan also there is no permanent source of water. These areas depend on the rainfall or on some shallow and open tubewells which are dependent only on the rainfall. If there is no rainfall, the wells get dried up. When they get dried up, then all the schemes which are formulated by way of pipelines, overhead tanks or ground level tanks, also dry up. I have recently been in that area and I have seen that there are lot of problems in those areas and the people are migrating from there. In fact, from some of the villages they have already migrated. I have told the District Magistrate and the Rajasthan administration also about this. They are taking some action but whatever they have done so far, is not satisfactory.

Thirdly, in that area, animal hunbandry is the main source of income and crop is the second source.

Since there is no rain, there is no fodder and most of the cattles are perishing. So, some arrangement for fodder also has to be made from the the neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana or Uttar Pradesh where there are good rains. The people are crying and they have not taken any action.

Similarly, there are other problems like the migration of people and of the people living below the poverty line. They have no source of income. The Government of Rajasthan was supposed to start some famine works and they had assured that they would start those works from the 1st of October. Now this is the end of November, but they have not yet started those works. I have brought this to the notice of the State Government and I hope that they would take some action. Otherwise, I would request the Central Government to take some steps in this regard.

Now, I have got some suggestions to make. I would request that additional funds, wherever required, should be made available to the State Governments and in turn they should spend that money only in the affected areas. Then, fodder should be made available in the drought affected areas.

I want to make one more point which comes under the purview of the Central Government. The Central Water Commission which comes under the Ministry of Water Resources has sanctioned additional resources by way of rigs and other machinery by which they can dig deep wells. The deep wells do not get dried up even when there is no rain because they go about 1,000 to 1,500 feet deep down the surface of the earth. The other day I raised this point in Parliament and Shri Janeshwar Mishra had assured me that the machinery would be sent. But I am sorry to point out that nothing has gone there. So, they should be sent there quickly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will be conveyed. Thank you.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, there is one last point. I would request you to allow me because I get the chance to speak very rarely.

There is a long term scheme to remove the drinking water problem. The Rajasthan Canal has reached up to Jaisalmer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sona Ram Choudhary, this is a discussion on the drought conditions in Orissa. You are speaking on something else and still I am allowing you. So, please conclude now and do not go into the details.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, this scheme should be implemented because this scheme has come to the Central Planning Commission. It should be cleared quickly. Similarly, for Narmada also, a scheme is supposed to come from Rajasthan in Barmer district. This also should be cleared quickly.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (Puri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, much of the discussion on the drought conditions in Orissa was focussed on Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa. Without wishing to underplay or undermine the precariousness of the conditions in these areas in any manner, I would just like to draw the attention of this august House, through you, Mr. Chairman, to the conditions in coastal Orissa and Particularly in my parliamentary constituency, Puri which is equally, if not much worse, affeced like some of these areas.

I would like to quote a few bare statistics. Puri parliamentary constituency has got three districts. The first one is Khurda. The total number of blocks in this district are 10 and the number of affected blocks are eight. The total number of villages are 1,567 and the number of villages affected are 1,108. The second district is Nayagarh. The total number of blocks in this district are eight and all the eight blocks are affected by the drought. Thirdly, in the district of Puri itself, the total number of blocks are 11 and here also all the 11 blocks are affected. Therefore, you can see that the drought conditions in coastal Orissa are equally bad.

Sir, I am glad that a colleague of ours from Orissa is here namely the Hon'ble Parliamentary Affairs Minister. The State Government has set in motion the Food for Work Programme already. I need not repeat the virtues of the Employment Assurance Scheme about

which Shri Narasimha Rao has spoken at length and other speakers have also spoken at lenghth. I just hope and I beseech Shri Srikanta Jena to in turn beseech the Prime Minister that when he gets up to reply to this discussion tomorrow the rest of the blocks which have not been covered by the Employment Assurance Scheme which are 64 in number at the moment should be cleared and sanctioned by the hon. Prime Minister tomorrow. This is the least that we can do. We are not asking for any grandiose schemes because we can make grand speeches and ask for grandiose schemes but not many of them are likely to be sanctioned due to lack of resources.

So, that is the only assurance we want from the Prime Minister. If he could do this it would really benefit the substantial segment of coastal Orissa.

The last thing which I wish to bring on record has been most unfortunate because everybody here has participated in a spirit of comradeship as though it is a national calamity. They have cut across party lines. But certain aspersions have been cast on the State Government. Now, I wish to rise in vigorous defence on the kind of prompt response that has come from the State Government.

Shri Biju Patnaik in particular and characteristically Mr. Chairman Sir took digs at the hon. Chief Minister and his colleague that they took a foreign trip recently. I only wish to point out that this foreign trip was absolutely necessary. It was taken after much anguish and prolonged debate and discussions within the party. Unfortunately, the discussion with the Exim Bank in Japan with whom they had to have discussions with regard to a four hundred million dollar loan for a certain Railway project in Orissa, could not be delayed. That is the reason that they had to undertake that trip. They cut short their trip substantially and came back well in time. Therefore it is most unfortunate that such kinds of digs were taken at a political level which is not in the spirit of the debate as it has been conducted today.

With this I deeply thank you for having given me the opportunity to address the Hon'ble House.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No doubt, I will be very short and brief. But at the same time I have to do justice with my people who are acutely and severely affected by the drought conditions. I would like to just put emphasis more on the ground realities. As you know, the guidelines of the Government for the implementation of EAS is that all the works have to be undertaken by the Department. Sir, since the staff and the implementing agency are very much limited, they are over-burdened. They cannot undertake the work and complete it in time. Therefore, there is difficulty in spending the money. There is also a difficulty in submitting the utilisation certificate.

Sir, as you know, we are having employment problem. We have unemployed graduates and unemployed qualified engineers also. So, there is no difficulty in undertaking contractual works. Therefore, we can definitely do justice if we really give some relaxation and allow the contractual works to be done through unemployed youths. I think that will do real justice and the work can be completed and people will also be benefited.

Sir, as far as drinking water is concerned, when we go for drilling, we find that the geographical conditions do not permit. Sometimes when we drill, the tubewells become defunct. All our districts are endowed with natural resources and water resources. We are having the Mahanadi river and so many other perennial sources of water which are there. We can have a pipeline to make water available to the people. Again, I would like to suggest to the Government that we can take into account the BPL list. In my constituency of Phulbani, Bahud and Sonepur although the BPL percentage is the highest in the State, I find that some EAS are not working. Therefore, is spite of having irrigation facilities, we find that drought has come to these areas.

So, it is right time to identify which are the places where we can adopt EAS, DPAP etc. That should be given top consideration. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that some works like construction of a bridge over river Mahanadi were stopped. At Boudh also, the work has been stopped. We find that nobody is willing to give the funds for the construction of bridges. There should be no difficulty in giving Rs. 15 crore to Rs. 20 crore. We should arrange this money from somewhere. When we construct these bridges, we would be developing not only the infrastructure but it would also change the economy. Therefore, those projects should be started and the Government should not be reluctant to give the necessary funds.

I am very happy to say that the State Government has certainly taken a keen interest in starting the works much before the onset of this drought. The entire administration was alert and they have been doing the work. But at the same time, because of the creation of new districts — earlier, there were only 13 districts, but now we have got 30 districts — we do not have sufficient infrastructure in these newly created districts. The officers have not been posted in these newly created districts. There is no infrastructure, buildings or anything of that sort. Therefore, it is very important to take this into consideration. Some new districts have been deprived of facilities like DRDA, Action Plan etc. Therefore, in the newly created districts, wherever there are DRDAs, they should be given sufficient funding. This is very important.

Sir, I am very glad that you have permitted me to speak. These are all very important points and the Government should take them into consideration and do justice in the greater interests of the State.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The list of speakers is exhausted and we have completed the discussion in regard to the drought situation in Orissa. The hon. Minister will reply to this discussion tomorrow.

Now the House stands adjourned to meet again on November 29, 1996 at 11.00 a.m.

20.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 29, 1996/Agrahayana 8, 1918 (Saka)